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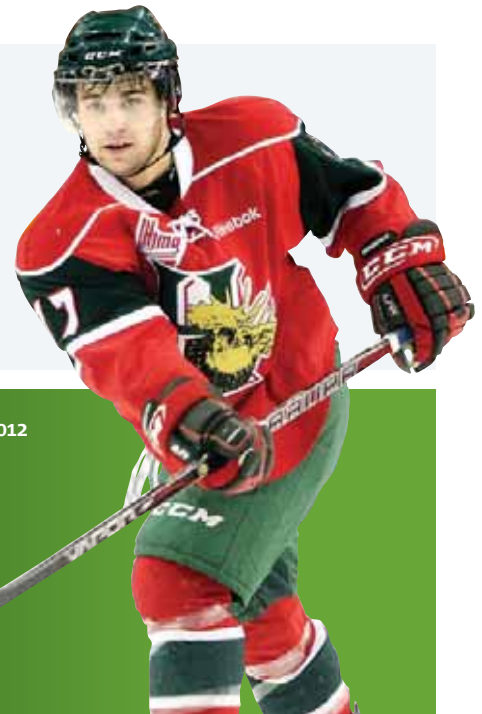
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PAGE 30



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Wednesday, October 24, 2012



News
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Cabbies irate over new zone rules

Disappointed. Drivers
not appeased by
decision to raise fares

Local taxi drivers showed up to the first post-election council meeting to demand a raise and to condemn a bylaw change that would open the downtown zones on weekends.

They got one, but not the other. After an exhaustive and often-heated three-hour public hearing, council approved Coun. Reg Rankin's recommendation to hike the HRM taxi base rate to \$3.20 from the current \$3.

Drivers who are licensed to serve outlying areas, such as Bedford and Sackville, are now free to pick up fares downtown from midnight to 5 a.m. Thursday through Sunday, and on Monday of a long weekend or local holiday.

The city had already

Quoted

**"We showed up here,
and there were only 14
councillors in attendance.
What does that say?"**

Bob Richards, cab driver

scrapped the zones on Fridays and Saturdays from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., but police wanted the deregulation extended in hopes of reducing the number of assaults that happen after the bars close.

Opponents said the deregulation would be bad for business, suggesting the competition would steal hotel guests travelling to the airport in the early morning while neglecting clients in the outlying areas.

Some were irritated by a perceived lack of focus from the councillors, several of whom were absent from one of just two meetings left before the new members are sworn

in.

"I'm so frustrated with this council," said 47-year veteran Bob Richards. "They're still elected officials. Why didn't they show up to vote? It's just a bunch of people who don't care about taxi drivers."

Coun. Jerry Blumenthal, who wanted to defer the matter for the new council, stormed out of the meeting, accusing council of neglecting its responsibilities to the taxi community.

Coun. Jennifer Watts countered that the current council had done its due diligence, including having city staff study the changes, and said the members were committed to dealing with the issue.

But that wasn't good enough for Terry Morier, who showed up to represent Dartmouth taxi drivers.

"We have not been listened to properly," he said. "We're very upset about it."

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO



iPAD MINI A BIG DEAL

Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice-president of worldwide product marketing, unveils the iPad Mini, seen on the right next to the fourth-generation iPad, in San Jose, Calif., on Tuesday. Story, page 16. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bridging the two-year gap

People will be shuttled to and fro during the Macdonald Bridge's redecking project

PAGE 3

An array of charges

Young suspect in attempted abductions faces psychiatric assessment

PAGE 4

A case of 'Romnesia'

Obama calls out Romney for shifting political positions to attract more voters

PAGE 10

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Review

Barkhouse seeks recount after election loss

The councillor who was declared the winner and then the loser in a closely fought battle for the Halifax regional council seat in District 3 is asking for a judicial recount.

Initial results in Saturday's municipal election showed Jackie Barkhouse had won the battle of incumbents, defeating Bill Karsten by six votes.

But a review held Tuesday morning revealed a discrepancy in the results from one poll, resulting in Karsten taking the district by 68 votes.

The review would be a separate process from the recount Karsten planned to seek. Barkhouse issued a release Tuesday afternoon explaining her intent.

"Chief Returning Officer Cathy Mellett has told me that she is 'actively pursuing' permission from council to ask for a recount," she wrote. "I hope that council will follow the advice of the head of its election staff ... so residents of District 3 can be assured that their votes have been counted accurately."

Council has until Oct. 30 to approve the recount.

Mellett says the discrepancy was the result of one polling station registering vote counts twice.

She says election protocol was followed with an official review of the results.

Karsten says he would support a recount, and that he sympathizes with Barkhouse. **ANDREW RANKIN/METRO**



Jackie Barkhouse METRO



The Macdonald Bridge will undergo major upgrades, beginning in early 2015, that will renew a "significant amount" of the infrastructure. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Macdonald Bridge plans taking shape

Transit. Shuttle will carry pedestrians, cyclists to and fro

JON TATTRIE
halifax@metronews.ca

A 24-hour shuttle service will get people across the Macdonald Bridge during major closures throughout its two-year redecking project, an engineer with Halifax Harbour Bridges said Tuesday.

The \$150-million job will last from 2015 to 2016. The

sidewalk and cycle lanes will be removed for most of that time and the whole bridge will close daily from 7 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. and on some weekends.

Jon Eppell told about 25 people at a public meeting at the Dartmouth Sportsplex that they will run a free, bike-friendly shuttle to ensure people can cross at all times. When the Macdonald is open, the shuttle will run across it, catering to cyclists and pedestrians. When it closes, the shuttle will cross via the McKay.

"We're committed to running it 24-7," he said.

Crossings

48,000

is the number of vehicles that cross the bridge every day, and there are 600 daily bike trips in peak summer months.

Buses will be rerouted via the McKay during full closures and Metro Transit may increase the ferry service.

The redecking is required to update the aging structure.

The problem is visible to any driver — the steel struc-

ture is showing through the pavement. It also exhibits an up-and-down motion, hinting at future problems.

"It's not a safety issue, but if we let it go it will become one," Eppell said.

The re-decking won't make the bridge bigger or more beautiful, but it will ensure it's still around for future generations of HRM drivers.

"The real benefit is a bridge that's going to last 75 to 100 years longer," he said.

HCB will replace the deck section by section using barges stationed below.

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Attempted-abductions suspect facing psychiatric assessment

Arrest. 19-year-old faces charges of kidnapping and break-and-enter



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

The young man arrested and charged in connection with two abduction attempts at a swanky south-end home will undergo a psychiatric assessment.

Aaron Patrick MacDonald, 19, of Dartmouth appeared in provincial court Tuesday afternoon to face charges of kidnapping, break-and-enter, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and disguise with intent.

"They are very serious charges," said Crown attorney Rick Woodburn. "They rank from life imprisonment, and some of them have mandatory minimums of a year in jail."

Police were called to a home on Oakland Road



Aaron Patrick MacDonald leaves Halifax provincial court after appearing to face an array of charges.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

around 10 a.m. Monday after security guards at a home caught a man in the house who was armed with a replica assault rifle.

Six days earlier, a masked man with a firearm entered the same house and tried to force a male resident to leave with him.

Police say the same man is responsible for both inci-



A mansion on Oakland Road in Halifax, as seen from the Northwest Arm, was the scene of two attempted kidnappings in less than a week.
JEFF HARPER/METRO

dents.

The house is owned by Brad Langille, co-founder of the mining company Gammon Gold.

Woodburn said he didn't know if MacDonald knew Langille, or planned on using him for ransom.

"Of course, whenever you have a kidnapping the

assumption is that you're going to do it for some means," Woodburn said.

A doctor has interviewed MacDonald and recommended the 30-day medical assessment to determine whether he is criminally responsible.

He is due back in court on Nov. 22.

Blaze

Culprits sought after suspicious fire in Fairview

Halifax Regional Police investigators are asking the public to help figure out who started a fire in a Fairview apartment building.

Firefighters responded to the building at 27 Evans Ave. around 4 a.m. Tuesday, after the fire broke out in an unoccupied unit.

"The fire crew extinguished the blaze, then early this morning fire investigators were at the scene and deemed it to be suspicious," said police Const. Pierre Bourdages.

"So our investigators are following up, canvassing the area and trying to determine what transpired there."

The building is home to about 15 tenants, none of whom were harmed.

But a police officer had to be hospitalized for smoke inhalation after he went into the building searching for a tenant.

"He received information from other tenants that one of the tenants that might have been in

Quoted

"The fire crew extinguished the blaze, then early this morning fire investigators were at the scene and deemed it to be suspicious."

Halifax Regional Police Const. Pierre Bourdages

the building was hearing impaired and may not have heard the alarm," said Bourdages. "He proceeded inside to try to locate the gentleman, but it was later determined that the guy was not inside."

Bourdages says the officer has been released from hospital and will be fine.

The tenants have all been allowed to return home.

He says investigators are asking anyone with information about the fire to contact police or Crime Stoppers.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

Online

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Disney World. Kids headed to Magical Kingdom

Dozens of children from across Eastern Canada are spending the day in Disney World.

The Sunshine Foundation of Canada is taking 80 kids ranging in age from seven to 17 on the Halifax DreamLift Wednesday, a one-day trip to Disney World for youth with severe physical disabilities and life-threatening illnesses.

The group will leave from and return to Halifax Stanfield International Airport.

In a release, the foundation says the trip will be the first time many of the participants

By the numbers

2

The number of DreamLifts departing from Halifax since 1998.

have been away from their parents, or on a plane.

Volunteers from the local health-care community, Halifax Regional Police and the Orange County Sheriff's Office will travel with the children for the day.

METRO

Two years on. Help still sought to solve death of pizza-delivery man

Halifax police continue to ask for the public's help in solving the 2010 shooting death of a pizza-delivery driver.

Two years ago Tuesday, 27-year-old Donald Chad Smith of Windsor Junction was shot while delivering a pizza to a building on Joseph Young Street in Dartmouth.

The shooting happened just before 9:30 p.m. Smith died at the scene.

Police say a call to the pizza

shop was placed from a payphone on Highfield Park Drive, between Joseph Young and Burnside Drive, about 45 minutes before the shooting.

Investigators haven't been able to identify the person who placed the order.

Police don't believe the shooting was random and are asking anyone with information to contact police at 490-5016 or Crime Stoppers.

METRO

Report. Stanfield airport bringing in big bucks

A new economic-impact report says the Halifax Stanfield International Airport brought \$1.26 billion to the provincial economy in 2011.

The study, conducted by Chris Lowe Planning and Management, found that direct employment created by the airport was equivalent to 5,260 full-time jobs.

The total wage and salary impact of the airport on the provincial economy was \$480.6 million.

The report also says airport tenants and the airport authority have generated more than 7,500 full-time equivalent jobs



Halifax's airport is generating some big economic numbers, according to a new report. METRO FILE

through construction and renovation projects since 2000.

In a release, airport authority president Tom Ruth says the study proves the airport has an "important role" as an employer and economic generator in Nova Scotia. METRO

Appeal

Sale of Antigonish exhibition grounds on hold for now

The mayor of Antigonish says the town will wait for an appeal process to play out before moving ahead with a controversial land sale.

The Antigonish-Guysborough Federation of Agriculture has said it will appeal a provincial Supreme Court ruling that prevented it from stopping the proposed

tax sale of the exhibition grounds. Federation president Dustin Swinkles says selling the property would be a big blow to his group, which wants the property declared tax-exempt.

Antigonish Mayor Carl Chisholm says the sale will be put on hold until the Nov. 15 deadline for court appeals.

The town argues the county owes \$332,000 in back taxes, but the county claims the property should never have been taxed by the town in the first place.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Saint Margaret's Bay residents, including Vernon Sklapsky, centre, wait at Halifax provincial court to see Kevin Arthur Whiting appear on Tuesday.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Break-in victims hit court en masse

Home invasions.

Boutiliers Point residents show up to get glimpse at suspect, say they're tired of being afraid

The residents of a St. Margaret's Bay neighbourhood came to Halifax provincial court in droves Tuesday for the appear-

ance of a man accused in several home invasions in the area.

"You don't want people kicking down your door in the morning," said Vernon Sklapsky of Boutiliers Point. "It's struck a chord."

The court benches were crowded with people waiting to see Kevin Arthur Whiting, 34, who has been in custody since last month on charges of break-and-enter.

Sklapsky said community members had gone to a meeting with an RCMP officer over the break-ins, and the officer recommended going to court to make an impact on the judge.

"There are a lot of people scared out there, women and elderly people living alone," Sklapsky said. "We shouldn't be afraid of him."

Whiting remained in a hold-

ing cell on Tuesday and wasn't in the courtroom for the proceedings.

His attorney said Whiting's appearance wasn't needed, and asked for the case to be adjourned until Oct. 31 so she could consult with the Crown.

"We'll be here," Sklapsky said regarding the future court date. "We have to get a picture of him so we'll know if we see him again." HALEY RYAN/METRO

Accused in confinement case needs new lawyer

The case of a man charged with confining and sexually assaulting a 16-year-old boy has been delayed while Nova Scotia Legal Aid looks for a private lawyer to represent him.

David James Leblanc appeared Tuesday in Bridgewater provincial court, facing a slew of charges that include sexual assault and forcible confinement.

Judge Gregory Lenehan ordered Leblanc to remain in custody and adjourned the case

until Nov. 14 after legal-aid lawyer Barry Whynot said his office is seeking a private lawyer to represent the accused.

Whynot said a lawyer assigned to the case in his office had a conflict of interest on the matter, but would not disclose details.

The RCMP issued warrants for Leblanc and Wayne Alan Cunningham last month after a teen showed up at a home in Upper Chelsea, barefoot and chained at his wrists and

ankles.

Leblanc was arrested near Greenstone, Ont., days after Cunningham was found dead in the same area. Foul play is not suspected in his death.

Prosecutor Lloyd Tancock said Tuesday he is hopeful that a bail hearing can be held on Nov. 14.

In 2010, Leblanc was released from custody in connection with unrelated sex charges involving a minor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



David James Leblanc, left.

METRO FILE



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Salvage company in scrap with province over MV Miner

Shipwreck.

Bennington Group threatens to walk away from MV Miner venture

A salvage company is threatening to walk away from the wrecked ship stranded off Scatarie Island, after the province requested more details about its safety plan.

The province issued a stop-work order last week after concerns were raised over the structural integrity of the MV Miner's hull, forcing New York-based Bennington Group to hire an independent engineer to produce a safety report on the salvage plan.

Although Bennington Group believes the report is complete, the province has requested further information.

"I'm pretty sure (the pre-

mier) and his engineering team have come to a conclusion that it is not safe because they might have a safer plan. So if they can share this safe plan with me, I'll see if I could carry that out," said Abe Shah, Bennington Group's chief operating officer. "Maybe what is missing from that is a mermaid safety plan endorsed by Poseidon."

The stop-work order the province issued is the latest in a long list of delays that Shah says have pushed the beginning of the salvage from its original July 10 start.

"I'm an American company and all the way to the border I'll be listening because in America we do believe in logic," he said. "But once I cross (the border) I'm only coming back legally."

Premier Darrell Dexter said Tuesday he was unaware of Bennington's threat to walk away from the project.

CAPE BRETON POST



The American company hired to salvage the wrecked MV Miner is threatening to quit out of frustration over demands from the provincial government.

METRO FILE

We need backups, call in Ariel

"Maybe what is missing from that is a mermaid safety plan endorsed by Poseidon."

Abe Shah, chief operating officer of the American company hired to salvage a wrecked ship, in his retort to the government's request for further information before the company carries through on an already long-delayed project.

Kill seals to save the cod, committee recommends



A Senate committee has recommended culling the seal population in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence by as much as 70 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A Senate committee says Ottawa should approve a cull of 70,000 seals off Canada's East Coast in a controversial four-year experiment aimed at helping the recovery of cod stocks.

The committee has spent almost a year studying a federal proposal to slaughter up to 70 per cent of the grey-seal population in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, a plan critics say has been driven by politics, not science.

Acting Fisheries Minister

Gail Shea is under pressure from the fishing industry to do something about the stunted cod recovery in the Gulf, where there's indirect scientific evidence suggesting hungry grey seals are to blame.

The cod in the area are on the verge of disappearing even though large-scale commercial fishing has been banned there since the early 1990s.

"The committee is persuaded by the demonstration that seal predation is

preventing the recovery of groundfish stocks in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence," the committee said in its report released Tuesday.

"While acknowledging the ecological risks raised by some witnesses, the committee supports the logic of the proposed experimental reduction of grey seals in this area."

However, leading biologists and animal welfare groups have condemned the proposal, saying there's no

Is it the seals' fault?

Acting Fisheries Minister Gail Shea is under pressure from the fishing industry to do something about the stunted cod recovery in the Gulf, where there is indirect scientific evidence suggesting hungry grey seals are to blame.

scientific evidence to suggest a cull would work.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yarmouth-Maine

Province issues draft request for proposals for ferry

The Nova Scotia government has released a draft request for proposals in an effort to revive the ferry link between Yarmouth and Maine.

The province's Economic Development Department

says it is looking for an operator who can show it can make the route profitable within seven years.

Last month, Premier Darrell Dexter said his government is willing to commit up to \$21 million over seven years to relaunch the service.

The government decided in 2009 to end a \$6-million annual subsidy for a company, which ran a high-speed ferry service. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cyberbullying

People, not profiles

A group of students in Nova Scotia who say cyber-bullies should realize their victims are people and not just online profiles will have their idea turned into a public awareness campaign.

The four students from Bayview Community School in Mahone Bay submitted

a video to the provincial government, which had asked young people across the province to come up with a creative anti-bullying campaign.

Grade 6 student Evan Hennigar wrote and directed a video that focused on how negative comments posted online can have a real impact on victims of bullying.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Twittots'

Election rumours 'absolute fantasy': Premier

Premier Darrell Dexter is shooting down speculation that he intends to call a snap election.

Scuttlebutt that an election could be just around the corner has increased in the

last week, fuelled by rumours on social media. Dexter, who was in Sydney Tuesday, denied he has any intention of calling a fall election.

"It's got to be a matter of absolute fantasy, I'm referring to them as 'Twittots,'" Dexter told reporters. "If it causes my opponents to run out there and rev up their machines and spend lots of money, I say have at it."

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Alleged terror plan. Sharp blades on a truck would cut down crowd

Three British Muslim men accused of plotting a mass-casualty bomb attack were secretly recorded discussing plans to strap sharp blades to the front of a truck and drive it into a crowd, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

Brian Altman said suspect Irfan Khalid, 27, was heard describing the device — featured in the al-Qaida magazine *Inspire* — and saying the idea was to “just drive it into people in (a) crowded area.”

“Yeah and do what AQ (al-Qaida) said, put that blades at the front of it and trample on everyone,” he was recorded saying.

Khalid, 27-year-old Ashik Al and Irfan Naseer, 31, are accused of plotting to set off multiple bombs, either on timers or in suicide strikes, in a bid to launch an attack bigger than the 2005 London transit bombings, which killed 52 people.

Prosecutors say they were the senior members of a home-grown terror cell in-

spired by the anti-western sermons of U.S.-born Islamist cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in Yemen in September 2011.

The suspects were among 12 people arrested in September 2011 in counter-terrorism raids in Birmingham, central England.

The three have pleaded not guilty to charges of preparing for terrorism. The other suspects have pleaded guilty or face trial later.

Prosecutors say timings and targets for the plot had not been finalized. But Altman told a jury at a London court that the men had conversations suggesting they planned to die during a terrorist attack this summer.

He said the trio was recorded last year discussing the need for their car to get a new tax certificate by June or July.

Khalid said “We’re dead by then” and “We’re probably out of here by next June, brother.” **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Muslims, Buddhists

Alleged rape sparks clashes

New clashes between Muslims and Buddhists have broken out in volatile western Myanmar.

The violence left at least two people dead and more than 1,000 homes burned to the ground, authorities said Tuesday.

The unrest is some of the worst reported between Rohingya Muslims and ethnic Rakhine Buddhists since skirmishes swept the region in June.

Violence flared after the alleged rape and murder of a Buddhist woman by three Muslim men in May. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Romania conviction

Top cleric was police informant

Romania’s highest court has upheld the conviction of a top Orthodox cleric accused of secretly serving as an informant for the country’s communist-era Securitate police.

The 83-year-old Archbishop Pimen was found guilty by a government council of serving as an informant sent by the church and the Securitate to spy on fellow clergy and members of Romania’s expatriate community in the United States in the 1970s. The conviction carries no penalty. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Abuse case. Disgraced Sandusky sees his new home — a state prison

Jerry Sandusky, the disgraced former Penn State football coach, became a state prison inmate Tuesday.

The 68-year-old was transferred out of the Centre County jail, his home since he was convicted in June of child molestation.

He arrived at the State Correctional Institute at Camp Hill, just outside Harrisburg, Pa., a prison spokesperson said.

At Camp Hill, experts will assess his mental state, physical health and educa-

tion level, and determine whether he needs treatment.

“I have some concerns about his medical needs and we’re going to be taking a careful look at that to make sure they’re being addressed,” said his lawyer, Karl Rominger. Specifically, he said, Sandusky has sleep apnea and uses a so-called CPAP machine.

Sandusky was sentenced this month to 30 to 60 years for sexual abuse of 10 boys over a 15-year period. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Heading in different directions politically: U.S. President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney walk past each other onstage after Monday's presidential debate. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Now Romney's a centrist? Obama says it's 'Romnesia'

After the debate.

Hard-hitting U.S. president accuses the normally hawkish Republican of shifting his positions

U.S. President Barack Obama has come out swinging — again.

The morning after the last televised presidential debate — in which critics say he gave a hard-hitting performance — he accused his Republican challenger Mitt Romney of shifting his positions.

He even joked that Romney was suffering from “Stage Three Romnesia.”

“We are accustomed to

seeing politicians change their position from four years ago,” Obama told a Florida rally Tuesday. “We are not accustomed to seeing politicians change their positions from four days ago.”

Romney presented a more centrist approach to foreign policy during the Monday-night debate.

But the Obama campaign said the Republican’s performance showed he is willing to shift from or lose his more conservative positions to satisfy his more mainstream constituents.

The two are neck-and-neck in the race for the White House as they enter the two-week home stretch before Election Day.

During Monday night’s debate, Romney largely ex-

Quoted

“I will stand with Israel if Israel is attacked.”

U.S. President Barack Obama, during the Monday presidential debate

pressed agreement with how Obama has conducted U.S. foreign policy.

On the violence in Syria, for example, Romney said he would not get the United States involved militarily, even though he wants to find a way to arm the opposition.

He dramatically shifted his position and agreed with Obama that all U.S. forces should be out of Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

Romney previously had

criticized Obama for setting such a date for withdrawal, saying he was giving the Taliban insurgency and its al-Qaida allies a date after which the militants could begin a drive to retake the country.

Romney even congratulated Obama “on taking out Osama bin Laden and taking on the leadership of al-Qaida.”

But he added: “We can’t kill our way out of this mess. ... We must have a comprehensive and robust strategy.”

The most compelling issue in Monday’s debate was how to deal with Iran’s alleged drive to build a nuclear weapon.

Both candidates underscored their support for Israel against a threat from Iran.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

And now ... a two-week race to the finish line

It's the economy, stupid

With the final debate behind them, the economy ruled the day Tuesday.

U.S. President Barack Obama brandished a new 20-page summary of his

second-term agenda and told a campaign crowd in Florida that challenger Mitt Romney’s blueprint “doesn’t really create jobs. His deficit plan doesn’t reduce the deficit; it adds to it.”

Later Tuesday, the president joined Vice-President Joe Biden in what is likely to be the most crucial battleground state of

all, Ohio. In Dayton, Obama said of Romney: “He’s doing everything he can to hide his true positions.”

“He is terrific at making presentations about stuff he thinks is wrong with America, but he sure can’t give you an answer about what will make it right.”

Romney and running mate Paul Ryan’s schedule

reflected the strategy of driving up Republican votes in areas such as the Denver suburbs and Cincinnati.

In Nevada, Romney told a cheering crowd that Obama wants a new term for the same policies that have produced slow economic growth and high unemployment for four long years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Faith

Winnipeg's police chief says prayer could cut crime

The new police chief in Manitoba's capital isn't officially on the job yet, but already he has stirred up controversy by saying religion could help cut the city's notoriously high crime rate.

Devon Clunis recently told a Christian newspaper that prayer could play a "significant role" in making Winnipeg's streets safer. "What would happen if we all just truly — I'm talking about all religious stripes here — started praying for the peace of this city and then actually started putting some action behind that?" Christian Week quoted Clunis as saying.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Record-setter

Baumgartner offers to teach UN chief how to skydive

Supersonic skydiver Felix Baumgartner wants to teach UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon how to skydive.

Baumgartner made the offer Tuesday during a photo opportunity where

the UN chief spoke admiringly of Baumgartner's death-defying leap last week from a balloon 39 kilometres above the Earth, breaking the sound barrier and setting a world record.

When Ban said that he had never skydived, the Austrian offered up his services.

"Here's your chance, I'll teach you to skydive," Baumgartner said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beach attack

Surfer killed by shark: California authorities

A shark killed a surfer Tuesday off a beach at coastal Vandenberg Air Force Base following a summer of shark sightings along California's Central Coast, authorities said.

Francisco Javier Solorio

Jr., 39, died in the attack off the coast of Surf Beach in Lompoc, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department said in a statement.

He was bitten in his upper torso.

Solorio "had a friend who he was surfing with who saw the shark bite or hit the man," said sheriff's Sgt. Mark A. Williams.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

State: Shoddy sterilization at pharmacy

Deadly meningitis outbreak. Unclean conditions at pharmacy tied to meningitis, says Mass. government

State officials in Massachusetts investigating a pharmacy linked to a deadly outbreak of meningitis said Tuesday they found shoddy sterilization practices and unclean conditions there, including debris-covered floor mats and standing water from a leaking boiler.

State officials also said the New England Compounding Center shipped steroids from the possibly contaminated batches suspected in the outbreak before it received its

own test results confirming the drugs were sterile.

Gov. Deval Patrick said he's ordered state pharmacy regulators to conduct surprise inspections — the first of which happened Tuesday — at companies similar to the NECC and take other steps to tighten oversight. The state also has moved to revoke the company's operating licence and the licences of its top three pharmacists.

"Those whose laboratory practices caused this outbreak should never practise pharmacy or manufacture in Massachusetts again," Patrick said.

The outbreak of fungal meningitis, an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord, has sickened 308 people, including 23 who have died, in 17 states. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Animal-rights protesters fight for rights

Animal-rights protesters from the Hunt Saboteurs Association, dressed as hunters, "beat" a fellow protester dressed as a fox, as they stage a play for the benefit of the media outside the police headquarters in central London on Tuesday. The protest has been organized in the lead-up to the police commissioner elections and organizers said they hope to provoke debate around how police funding is currently spent. The organization says it fears that police will turn a blind eye to wildlife crime, while surveying and intimidating animal-rights, environmental and peace activists.

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weighty issues. Execution table can support obese inmate, says warden

The warden of the prison where Ohio puts inmates to death says the state's execution table can easily hold a 400-pound condemned inmate who has argued he is so big it might collapse.

The table was tested by placing an equally heavy prison employee on it and by placing weights on it.

"The execution table held firmly and showed no signs of instability," Donald Morgan, warden at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, said in a court filing late Monday opposing inmate Ronald Post's request to be spared.

Post's attorneys said last month he weighs 480 pounds, while the state says Post weighed 396 pounds last week.

Post, 53, is scheduled to die Jan. 16 for the 1983 shooting death of Helen Vantz.

Vantz's son, Bill Vantz, has called Post's arguments "laughable."



This undated file photo shows death-row inmate Ronald Post, 53.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Post argues his weight, vein access, scar tissue, depression and other medical problems raise the likelihood his executioners would encounter severe problems.

"Indeed, given his unique physical and medical condition, there is a substantial risk that any attempt to execute him will result in serious physical and psychological pain," a court filing said last month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shock. Brazilian man appears very much alive at his own funeral

A 41-year-old car washer shocked his family when he interrupted a funeral being held for him at his mother's home in the town of Alagoinhas in northeastern Brazil, police said Tuesday.

Police Insp. Roberto Lima said by telephone that on Sunday Jose Marcos Araujo identified a body at the city morgue as being that of his brother, Gilberto.

Lima said that Jose Marcos took the body to his mother's home where a wake was held.

"The confusion started when news started circulating that a car washer had been shot dead," Jose Marcos' wife, Ana Paula, told the UOL Internet news portal. "Police called my husband and told him that his brother had been killed and his body was at the morgue."

Lima said the confusion was "understandable."

"The two men closely

Quote

"Some people fainted and others were so scared they ran away."

Maria Menezes, family friend, recounting to the G1 online news site the reaction when a man showed up at his own funeral

resembled each other and both worked as car washers," Lima said adding that the man whose body was in the morgue was named Genivaldo Santos Gama. He said further information on Gama was not immediately available.

A few hours before the Monday burial "a friend of Gilberto's saw him walking down the street and told him that his family was mourning him," he said.

"So he went to his mother's home to let everyone know he was very much alive." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flying. Mom guilty of disorderly conduct for berating TSA officers

A woman was found guilty Tuesday of disorderly conduct for berating security officers trying to pat down her teenage daughter and then refusing to submit to the procedure herself at a Tennessee airport.

Jurors deliberated four hours before convicting Andrea Abbott. She had faced up to 30 days in jail and a \$50 fine for her conduct in the July 2011 confrontation at Nashville International Airport, but the judge placed her on probation for a year because she has no criminal record.

Judge Joe P. Binkley Jr., warned the 42-year-old "to be certain you don't get into any further problems with the law."

Abbott didn't talk to reporters outside the courtroom. Her defence attorney, Brent Horst, said she was disappointed in the verdict, but felt she got a fair trial. "She just wanted to stand on principle, because she felt that she had done nothing

Civil liberties

The case drew international attention.

- **Screening.** Hundreds of offered Abbott support and donations amid debate over whether new, intrusive screening methods should be allowed at airports.

- **Freedom.** "Since 9-11, we're losing a lot of freedom," Abbott's lawyer said in closing arguments.

wrong," said Horst, who handled the case pro bono. "And I admire her for that."

Abbott testified during the first day of the trial on Monday that she was not unruly but did yell at officers. She said she was "irritated, but not arguing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Public interest prevails

Correctional Service tries to prevent release of cell-death video

Federal prison authorities are going to court to try to stop the release of a jailhouse video of a teen who died in her cell.

Their announcement came just after the coroner refused to put a publication ban on the videos of Ashley Smith.

Prison authorities wanted the videos of a dying Smith kept from public view. But coroner Dr. John Carlisle said the public's right to know was too important.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Annual report

Self-harm by prisoners rising

The federal correctional investigator says the number of prisoners harming themselves in federal penitentiaries has almost tripled in the last five years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal party

McGuinty won't run for federal leadership

Outgoing Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty won't be challenging Justin Trudeau for the federal Liberal leadership. The premier has decided to look for challenges outside politics.

"I've talked it over with family and supporters and I've decided not to run," said McGuinty.

Some of his closest advisers had put together a campaign team that would have been ready to go this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign workers

B.C. investigates recruitment ad

The provincial government is investigating after the B.C. Federation of Labour complained an employment agency has been advertising for Canadian jobs, offering miners in China a chance to work here in exchange for exorbitant recruitment fees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper backbencher gives Jubilee medals to abortion foes

Controversial decision. Activists jailed repeatedly for aggressive actions called 'heroines of humanity' by MP

Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott, who gave Diamond Jubilee medals to two anti-abortion activists who have been jailed repeatedly, calls them "heroines of humanity."

Vellacott gave one of his 30 allotted medals to Mary Wagner, whose aggressive actions "counselling" women at abortion clinics have repeatedly landed her behind bars.

The Saskatchewan MP also gave one to Linda Gibbons, another longtime pro-life advocate and frequent convict on mischief charges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Saskatchewan Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott is shown in the House of Commons in May 2006. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Well-being. Economy OK, but Canadians not so much

Canada's economy may well be muddling through, but on a more personal level, Canadians generally are not, a new study of well-being suggests.

The Canadian Well-being Index, led by researchers at the University of Waterloo, shows that quality of life in Canada deteriorated by 24 per cent between the onset of recession in 2008 and 2010.

Canada's main economic indicator, gross domestic product, only declined by about 8.3 per cent over the same period and began to make a turnaround by the end of 2010.

"When Canada's economy was thriving, Canadians only saw modest improvements in their overall quality of life," said Roy Romanow, co-chair of the index's advisory board. "But when the economy faltered, our well-being took a disproportionate step backward." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Syria: It's a matter of life and death

Aleppo under siege.

Survival instincts are being stretched to the limit as rebels and Bashar Assad's regime clash and battle for Syria's largest city

The rumble of engines in the sky immediately set the Aleppo neighbourhood below on edge. Men peeked from shops anxiously at the Syrian warplane circling slowly overhead. Housewives emerged on balconies to gauge whether they were about to be hit. But the kids hanging out on the street were unfazed. One kept dribbling his basketball.

Finally, the jet struck. Engines revving louder, it dove and unleashed a burst of heavy machine-gun fire into a nearby part of the city. It soared back up under a hail of rebel anti-aircraft fire, then swooped back down for a second strafing run.

The women on the balconies broke into tears, fearing for the children in the street. But the boys just pointed at the jet, shouting "God is

great" in challenge. "God send you to hell, Bashar," one boy yelled as the jet flew away.

With death lurking around every corner, the survival instincts of Aleppo's population are tested every day as the battle between Syria's rebels and the regime of President Bashar Assad for the country's largest city stretches through its fourth destructive month.

Residents in the rebel-held neighbourhoods suffering the war's brunt tell tales of lives filled with fear over the war in their streets, along with an ingenuity and resilience in trying to keep their shattered families going. And while residents of the rebel-held areas express their hatred of Assad's regime and their dream of seeing him go, they also voice their worries

over the rebels and the destruction that their offensive has brought to their city. Graffiti on the shutter of a closed store declares the population's sense of resignation: "God, you are all we've got."

Since the rebels launched their assault in July to drive government forces from Aleppo, the two sides have fought to a stalemate. Each holds about half the city of three million people and neither is able to deal the other a decisive blow.

While government-held areas have seen some fighting from occasional rebel forays, the opposition districts are hit daily by artillery, mortars, sniper fire and airstrikes. Hundreds of civilians have been randomly killed by shells or mortars while waiting in bread lines, shopping for food or in their homes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I don't support the regime, but I am crying rivers of blood for my country."

Local agricultural engineer Abdul-Jalil

Abdul-Jalil describes what he calls the unruliness of the rebels. He said rebels had forced him from his home to use as a base — and that they had done the same to others. He now lives elsewhere with his in-laws.



A view of damaged buildings from shelling in Aleppo, Syria, taken Sunday. MANU BRABO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Double life

Informant denounces NYPD

A paid informant for the New York Police Department's intelligence unit was under orders to "bait" Muslims into saying inflammatory things as he lived a double life, snapping pictures inside mosques and collecting the names of innocent people attending

study groups on Islam.

Shamiur Rahman, a 19-year-old American of Bangladeshi descent who has now denounced his work as an informant, said police told him to embrace a strategy called "create and capture," creating a conversation about jihad or terrorism, then capturing the response. He said he now believes his work was "detrimental to the Constitution." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan. 10 Afghan troops dead after ambush

Taliban insurgents killed 10 Afghan troops in an ambush in western Herat province, police and government officials said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the provincial governor, Muhiuddin Noori, said the Afghan troops (which included both soldiers and police) were searching late Monday for a group of insurgents who had earlier set up a roadblock, stopping and seizing passing vehicles, when they were ambushed.

Five policemen, including the district commander and five soldiers, died in the ensuing firefight, Noori said. There were no insurgent casualties,

but police later arrested 25 suspects found in the area, he said.

Also Tuesday, an American service member was killed in an insurgent attack in the east, the U.S. military said in a statement. It did not provide further details about the attack. The latest death makes at least 12 American service members killed so far this month and 265 killed so far this year.

The Herat ambush was the bloodiest single incident for Afghan security forces this year in western Afghanistan, an area where the insurgents have been less active than in their strongholds in the east and west. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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An Afghan National Civil Order policeman searches a man in Marjah, Afghanistan, Sunday. A Taliban ambush left 10 Afghan troops dead Tuesday. One American soldier was killed in a separate attack. ANJA NIEDERHOFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pricey pedicab. Tourists charged \$442 for ride

Even in an era of \$500 hotel rooms and \$18 cocktails, the \$442 that a Texas family paid for a ride in a New York City pedicab has become notorious.

The fare made headlines over the summer, and since then, officials have been pushing for a simplified pricing structure.

Pedicab operators are allowed to charge whatever they like as long as their prices are posted on the side of the cab. But listed prices are often based on a confusing formula. That was what led to the \$442 fare. The driver told the couple after their 14-block ride that there was a

Proposed changes

- A proposal before New York City Council would scrap the rate cards for a per-minute charge that each driver could set.
- The New York City Pedicab Owners Association prefers a requirement that prices be quoted before the ride starts.

\$100 fare for each additional passenger, even though the daughters were 7 and 9. Such a trip for three people ordinarily costs \$80 to \$100.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grave error

Thieves steal van with 12 coffins

Polish car thieves got some unexpected cargo when they stole a van in Germany: 12 sealed coffins.

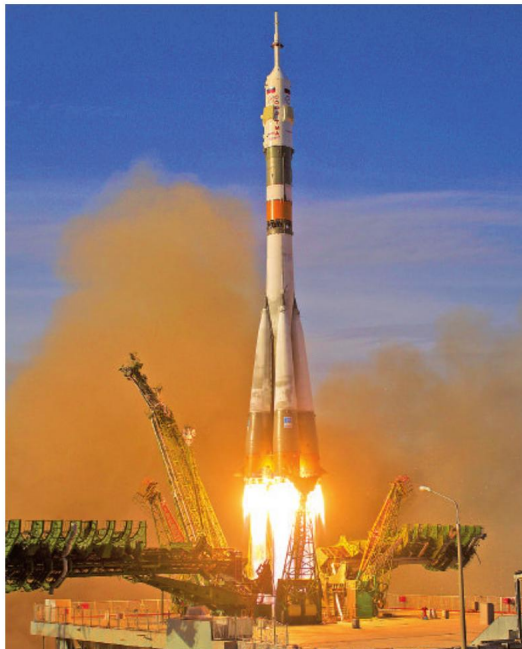
Polish police said the coffins were found Tuesday in the woods near the western Polish city of Konin. The thieves apparently dumped

the coffins after they unwittingly stole a van in Germany that was on its way to a crematorium.

The coffins were in one of three vans stolen on the night of Oct. 14 in the Berlin suburb of Hoppegarten.

A Polish police spokesman says three Poles have been detained and two more are being sought on suspicion of stealing the vehicles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian spacecraft blasts off from Kazakhstan site



The Soyuz-FG rocket with the Soyuz TMA-06M spaceship, carrying a new crew to the International Space Station, blasts off from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Tuesday. NASA, BILL INGALLS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baikonur. Need for backup launch site became acute with decommissioning of shuttle fleet in 2011

A Russian spacecraft surged into clear skies over the Central Asian steppe Tuesday, carrying a three-man crew on their way to the International Space Station.

The engines of the Soyuz TMA-06M sent a powerful roar across the tinder-dry countryside of southern Kazakhstan as scheduled in the afternoon to deliver NASA astronaut Kevin Ford and Russians Oleg Novitsky and Yevgeny Tarelkin to the orbiting laboratory.

After a two-day journey, the astronauts will join U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams, Russia's Yuri Malenchenko and Aki Hoshide of Japan's JAXA agency.

The crew will face what may be the heaviest workload in the 12-year history of

Cosmodrome

For the first time since 1984, the manned takeoff took place from the Russian-leased Baikonur cosmodrome's launch site 31.

- The pad that is normally used — the one where Yuri Gagarin became the first human to travel into space in 1961 — is being modernized. Site No. 1, better known as Gagarin's Start, was last overhauled in 1983.

- Launches of a modernized version of the craft that flew Tuesday, Soyuz-2, will begin from the Gagarin Start cosmodrome in 2016.

the space station over its first week.

Tasks will include handling the departure of a Dragon cargo vehicle and a spacewalk to carry out repair operations on the station.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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iPad Mini priced well above rivals

Orders start Friday. New tablet 'is not just a shrunken-down iPad,' senior Apple exec says

Apple introduced a smaller iPad on Tuesday as expected, and updated its full-sized one. It also unveiled new Mac computers, including a 13.3-inch version of a MacBook Pro with sharper, "Retina" display.

With a screen measuring 7.9 inches on the diagonal, the iPad Mini is about two-thirds the size of the regular iPad. "You can hold it in one hand," said Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice-president for worldwide marketing. "It's not just a shrunken-down iPad. It's an entirely new design."

The iPad Mini starts at \$329 US, which makes it more expensive than rival seven-inch products — Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle Fire starts at \$159 US, and Google Inc.'s Nexus 7 at \$199 US.

Advance orders for the iPad Mini and the new full-sized

iPad will begin Friday, and the products will be available Nov. 2. Two weeks later, a version capable of using cellular networks will go on sale. That's a feature the cheaper seven-inch tablets don't have.

The new full-sized iPad is an update to the third-generation device that went on sale in March. It has a sharper screen and promises a faster processing chip and faster wireless Wi-Fi connectivity. Prices start at \$499 US.

- A new thinner and lighter version of the 13.3-inch MacBook Pro, with a sharper display, will start at \$1,699 US.
- New iMac computers feature what looks like a super-thin display screen — but Schiller noted "there is an entire computer in here."



The iPad Mini, shown in San Jose, Calif., on Tuesday, has a screen about two-thirds as large as the full-sized model.

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

- A new Mac Mini starts at \$599 US and comes with four gigabytes of RAM.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



You may soon be able to get your caffeine fix a little bit faster.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Quick-touch payments. Tim Hortons rolls out Interac Flash

Tim Hortons has joined other Canadian retailers in adding Interac Flash cards to the number of ways customers can make cashless payments at the counter.

The restaurant chain expects more than 2,300 locations across the country to be accepting the wireless touch cards by the end of October.

Rather than adding to a credit card balance, the Interac

cards draw down the funds from the customer's bank account. And unlike older types of credit and debit cards, the new generation of Interac cards use a quick-touch chip processor that doesn't require customers to enter PIN numbers or other information.

Due to its size, Tims will be one of Canada's biggest users of Interac Flash but it won't be alone. THE CANADIAN PRESS

London. Conrad Black calls BBC interviewer 'British fool'

Former media magnate Conrad Black has suggested in a pair of eyebrow-raising British TV interviews that he could resume his seat in the House of Lords.

In one interview, Black termed a BBC host a fool and talked about "being able to endure a discussion like this without getting up and smashing your face in."

In another, he told a Sky News interviewer Tuesday to "stop being a jackass."

During his first appearance, Black told BBC Two's Newsnight on Monday that the U.S. charges that sent him to prison

for close to three years were "rubbish" and that he had been "persecuted half to death."

Black, who returned to his Toronto home this year after being released from a Florida prison, spoke critically of the U.S. justice system during the interview, describing the American prosecution of him as "a smear job from A to Z."

But the chat with Newsnight's Jeremy Paxman became heated when the host referred to Black as a convicted criminal and Black responded by calling Paxman a "priggish, gullible, British fool."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute



DOLLAR
100.74¢
(-0.01¢)



TSX
12,225.84 (-177.71)



OIL
\$86.67 US (-\$1.98)



GOLD
\$1,709.40 US (-\$16.90)

Natural gas: \$3.535 US (+8.3¢)
Dow Jones: 13,102.53 (-243.36)

Employee drug-testing

Court turns down Suncor challenge

Suncor Energy has lost another legal round in its plan to randomly test thousands of unionized oilsands workers in Alberta for drugs and alcohol. But the court battle pitting work-site safety against individual privacy rights isn't over.

Earlier this month, the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union Local 707 won an injunction against a testing policy that was implemented during the summer. A judge ordered the matter be settled through arbitration.

An Alberta Court of Appeal judge ruled Tuesday against a Suncor application for a stay of the injunction. Suncor said it will continue the fight to keep its work sites safe.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beef recall

Federal food-safety watchdog allows plant to reopen

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency restored the operating licence Tuesday for a southern Alberta meat-packing plant at the centre of a massive recall of tainted beef, and also

launched a review of the E. coli crisis that sickened at least 16 people.

But the agency acknowledged that its control over food safety inside the nation's slaughterhouses has its limits: It is still up to companies to honour their own safety plans. Forty-six federal inspectors didn't detect sanitation, hygiene and reporting deficiencies in the Brooks, Alta.-based

XL Foods facility until the outbreak of E. coli bacteria last month touched off one of the largest food recalls in Canadian history.

Production at the plant will ramp up gradually as inspectors scrutinize the work on the facility floor. Union officials say employees are being summoned for training and say production could resume on Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A DESTINATION WEDDING WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE



JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Figure it out. The average life span lasts about 29,000 days. Might sound like a lot, but that's all you get.

So why would you spend a single one at a Star Trek convention?

The original Star Trek's Capt. Kirk, William Shatner, had a lucid moment a few years back when he wondered the same thing.

Kingdom Klingon

They're so obsessive that the big event of the two-day fest, which ended Sunday, consisted of setting the record for the largest gathering of people dressed in Star-Trek-themed costume.

which ended Sunday, consisted of setting the record for the largest gathering of people dressed in Star-Trek-themed costume. The previous record of 1,040 nerds in a room was beat, as 1,083 Klingons, Vulcans and Ferengi came together to ... come together.

One couple really came together, exchanging vows as Klingons, the warrior aliens immortalized by Worf in Star Trek: The Next Generation. They spent their honeymoon at the convention, natch. I can't help but wonder what happens the first time Jossie tries to bite Sonnie (they're both Swedish in real life) on the neck (how a Klingon indicates he or she is interested in sex), and Sonnie says "Not tonight dear, jlwuQ (I have a headache)." The fur will fly, no doubt.

Not only did trekkers (the politically correct version of "trekkie") waste two of their 29,000 to pine for a program that went out of production on May 13, 2005, they spent as much as 3,000 British pounds on a ticket.

To be fair, the damn thing is tougher to kill than a Romulan battle cruiser. J.J. Abrams directs the next movie, which documents the further adventures of a reinvented Capt. Kirk, set to open on May 17, 2013, eight years later, almost to the day the series died.

How's that for symmetry? Symmetry is very important when you're a trekkERRRR.

If this keeps up, Star Trek will eventually catch up to its fictional "real time," sometime in the 23rd century. In fact, I'm surprised this has never been a Star Trek episode, as it's right up their alley.

Full disclosure: I used to be a fan, but bailed when the show jumped the shark somewhere between Deep Space Nine and Voyager. But I'd like to think I never thought of Scott Bakula (Star Trek captain No. 1) as "legendary" or the kiss between Capt. Kirk and Lt. Uhura as a milestone in U.S. race relations.

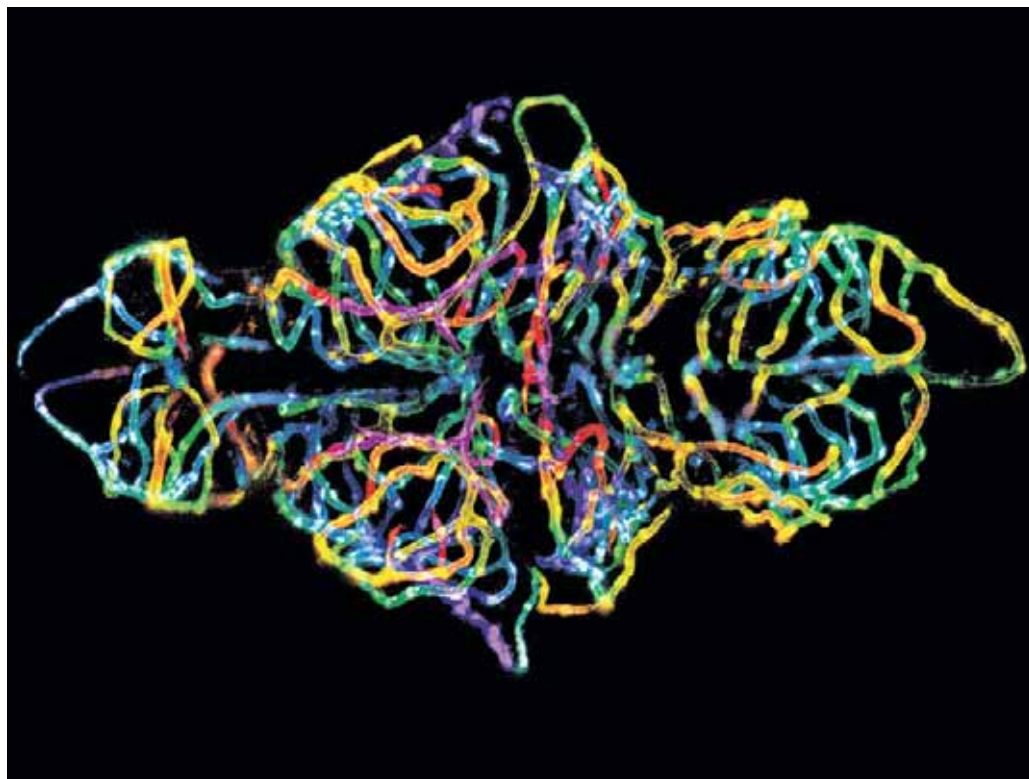
Yes, all the various Star Treks won 31 Emmys. But Frasier won 37 all by itself, and they don't have a Frasier convention every year with 1,000 Jack Russell terriers called Eddie.

At least not yet.



Jossie Sockertopp and Sonnie Gustavsson tie the knot in a Klingon wedding ceremony last weekend in London, England. OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES

This photo is a little fishy



JENNIFER L. PETERS AND MICHAEL R. TAYLOR/NIKONSMALLWORLD.COM

Photomicrography

Fish brain lights up to win contest

A first-ever picture of the blood brain barrier in a live animal has won this year's Nikon Small World Competition, which recognizes excellence in photography taken through a microscope.

The blood brain barrier in a live zebra-fish larva was made by Jennifer Peters and Michael Taylor at St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

METRO

Q & A

This is a photo first

Can you describe the photo?

This image is of blood vessels from the brain of a live zebra-fish larva. Using a fluorescent protein, we labelled the vessels that make up the blood brain barrier. As the colour changes from red to yellow to green to blue, the vessels are going deeper into the brain.

How is this image important in science and art?

This is the first time the entire blood brain barrier has been imaged in a live animal. I believe that new models of the blood brain barrier, such as the zebra fish shown in our image, may lead to new treatments for central-nervous-system diseases that disrupt the BBB: neurodegenerative disorders, brain tumours and strokes, to name a few.

Aesthetically, it's absolutely stunning.



MICHAEL TAYLOR
Biology researcher

Science explained

What's a blood brain barrier?

This defensive barrier is a group of cells that let nutrients and other necessities move between blood vessels and the central nervous system, while keeping bacteria out of the brain's region. **METRO**

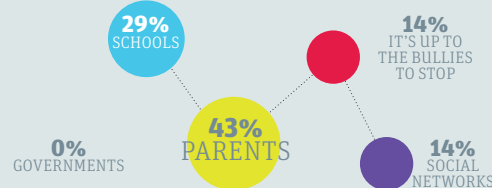
Online

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Who should lead the charge in the fight against cyber-bullying?



Twitter

@mullosity:

Why are the bridges the most common place in #Halifax for cars to stall or get into an accident? @HRMPProblems

@TarynFit:

Dear Halifax, you are beautiful and don't know why I ever left you. #truelove

@schnarebear:

#Halifax: where a busload of adults in rain slickers on a sunny afternoon being led down the

street by a bagpiper doesn't seem weird.

@mustardseedjobs:

Is it just me, or has #Halifax gone 'new street curb' crazy this fall? Everywhere I drive, new ones going in. Concrete-crazy council?

@LizD12:

Too warm in my light fall jacket in October. Still seems strange for #Halifax

High Gloss Maintenance Celebrates 30 Years!



HIGH GLOSS MAINTENANCE
METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

STILL SHINING AFTER 30 YEARS

HIGH GLOSS MAINTENANCE STARTED WITH JUST ONE CLIENT

When Raymond Boutillier started High Gloss Maintenance Inc. 30 years ago, he started the company as a means of self-employment. He had one client — a bank — and soon one bank became a number of banks.

As the commercial cleaning business began to grow, he began hiring family members and so too did his modest goal of steady self-employment.

"I just continued to look for work," says Boutillier, who acts as the company's president today.

In the beginning, the work was local, but the company soon began doing work across the province. Today, it does cleaning work throughout Atlantic Canada and employs a total of about 100 people.

The company's headquarters are located

at 2260 Sackville Dr. in Upper Sackville, which is a definite change from the company's roots, when it was started out of Boutillier's home.

Over the years, the list of services that High Gloss Maintenance offers has evolved. While in the beginning its focus was on regular cleaning jobs, this evolved into doing carpet cleaning and the stripping and waxing of floors.

All that being said, with the company's experience and expertise, there isn't a commercial cleaning job that it isn't able to handle, as the company is well-equipped to adapt to the changing needs of every job.

For example, High Gloss Maintenance is currently working on a project where, because of the sheer height of the space that needs to be cleaned, the cleaning staff

working on the job has been trained in fall arrest and operating a scissor lift.

After 30 years in business, Brenda Boutillier, the company's secretary treasurer, says there is one key reason behind the company's success.

"It's been 30 years of great customer service and that's why we're still around," she says.

Boutillier says that all customers receive exceptional service, regardless of the size of the job.

"You are going to get the same quality of service from us and if you have a complaint, we're going to be on it right away," she says. "We're going to be there no matter what."

Customers looking to learn more about High Gloss Maintenance should call 865-

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People pressed for time will be pleased to know that a cleaning quote from High Gloss Maintenance Inc. is just one click away. Just visit the website highglossmaintenance.com, click on Quote and enter in a few details. The High Gloss Maintenance team will provide an estimate within 48 business hours.

9962, where they will speak to a live voice Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is also an after-hours emergency service pager people can call. The toll-free number is 902-558-7785.



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'WE WILL NEVER SAY NO TO A CUSTOMER'

HIGH GLOSS CARES ABOUT ITS STAFF AND CUSTOMERS

Behind the success of any company is a multitude of factors. In the case of High Gloss Maintenance Inc., one of the reasons has been its staff. For many staffers, they have been with the company since it first started.

"Our staff is very important to our company," says secretary treasurer Brenda Boutilier. "That's one reason why our company is where it is today. We have a lot of good people working for us."

The company's management all began as cleaners and it is something they remember every day. For that reason, the company recognizes its employees for their efforts and rewards them on an ongoing basis to show their appreciation.

Whether it's the company's employee of the month award, pizza parties for staff, purchasing gift certificates for staff, providing paycheque advances or giving interest-free loans, High Gloss Maintenance makes sure its employees are well looked after.

Employees also appreciate the fact that if a job needs to be completed, the High Gloss Management team will roll up its sleeves to make sure it gets done.

"We will never say no to a customer,"



says Wanda Rose, the company's office manager.

If the company can't find a staffer to do the work, the management team will jump right in.

Speaking of looking for staffers, High Gloss Maintenance offers something called a general labour package. For companies that have an in-house cleaner, but need a replacement because of a circumstance such as a vacation, sick leave or maternity leave, High Gloss Maintenance is able to have one of its cleaners fill the temporary vacancy.

Other reasons for the company's success include its emphasis on quality control. This includes keeping a record of every cleaning job and having the client sign off on an inspection form.

Another reason is the company's commitment to using cleaning products that are safe for the environment.

"We're pretty much using only environmentally safe products now," says Raymond Boutilier, the company's president. "Just about every client is asking about that today and at the least, they want to know you're trying."

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For two years running, High Gloss Maintenance Inc. has been the recipient of the Consumer Choice Award for the Cleaning Equipment and Services category for the Halifax area.

The Consumer Choice Award was established in 1987 and bills itself as "Canada's only seal of business excellence that is determined through an independent research survey," says its website.

It is handed out in cities across Canada, including Calgary, Toronto and

Vancouver. Besides St. John's, Halifax is the only city where the award is handed out east of Montreal.

The way the Consumer Choice Award process works is it "gathers the opinions, perceptions and expectations through the responses of thousands of consumers and businesses," says its website.

It uses a thorough process to determine who the winners of the different categories are. By using Leger Marketing to conduct the survey, this ensures the research is statistically accurate.

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SPARKLING REPUTATION

In the cleaning business, reputability is something that goes a long way.

"We do a lot of high-security buildings, government contracts," says Wanda Rose, the office manager with High Gloss Maintenance Inc.

In today's world, where much attention is paid to security issues at organizations, it's crucial that cleaning companies treat the matter with just as much diligence as the client (or more).

"Just about every client is concerned about that today and at the least, they want to know you're concerned, too," says Raymond Boutilier, High Gloss Maintenance's president. "We always do a security clearance before we hire anybody. If they don't have a clearance, we don't hire them."

This is something the company prides itself on and is a point that resonates with clients.

"The big thing is people want to know who is in their building," says Boutilier.

High Gloss Maintenance also goes a step further to provide peace of mind to its clients by carrying \$5 million in liability insurance, as well as a \$100,000 fidelity bond.

As a family-owned business, High Gloss Maintenance's reputation is of the utmost importance.

"Where we're a small business, it's Raymond's name and it's my name," says secretary treasurer Brenda

Boutilier. "That's what I always think about because if something happens, it's going to come back to us. It's our reputation. Halifax and Atlantic Canada is a small neighbourhood and everybody knows everybody."

After 30 years of business, it is a reputation that High Gloss Maintenance has worked hard to earn and maintain. One of the reasons the company has earned its great reputation is because of its employees.

"We have low staff turnover and this is something a lot of clients look for," says Rose.

"We have people that have been with us right from the beginning."

She's quick to point out who some of these staffers are, including a 79-year-old gentlemen from Newfoundland who continues to work for the company.

Casting aside High Gloss Maintenance's commitment to providing superior service to its clients, the company's reputation is one of the reasons why the company continues to be such a success.

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'I was James Bond'

London. Reporter plays 007 for a day, scaling an arena, drinking martinis and scoring a Bond girl

ANTHONY JOHNSTON
Metro World News

As a copy editor, I'm a stickler for, well, everything: words, grammar, facts ... and movie trivia. I know a thing or two about James Bond (his dad was Scottish and he has a drink every 24.3 minutes, for example) but I never pictured myself as 007.

In fact, no one has pictured me as 007. At six-foot-six and close to 275 pounds — counting my bushy beard and hair — I am closer to Jaws in stature and have as much experience with firearms as Money Penny (none). Despite all this, I took up the mission of Be Bond for a Day to see if I could masquerade as a secret agent.

Cut and shave à la Bond

To be Bond, you have to look the part. So that means a respectable tuxedo — Moss Bros. of King Street, Covent Garden fixed me up — and an all-out makeover. At traditional barbers Murdock London (Liberty department store, Great Marlborough Street, London), they specialize in slick side-parting styles and wet shaves with cut-throat razors.

Prepared, I whip out a photo of Sean Connery in Dr. No — it's the look I want. My barber Alex Glover applies lashings of exfoliating creams and several hot towels to my face before diving into the mossy bush on my cheeks and atop my head.

The result is pure, pomaded Sean. I am now ready to climb a building.

Johnston, Anthony



Licence to Thrill: Anthony Johnston, a.k.a. James Bond, in front of the iconic O2 Arena in London. Inset, Anthony as Daniel Craig taking care of an adversary. NICK CUNARD

Johnston

In *The World is Not Enough*, 007 lands atop London's O2 arena after falling from an exploding hot-air balloon. Forgetting to bring my exploding hot air balloon, I sign up for the site's latest attraction Up at The O2, a 190-metre open walkway that stretches over the roof.

Attached to a harness, visitors scale the tensile fabric path, which at its steepest has an incline of 30 degrees, and finally rest at the observation deck — 52 meters above ground level. (The equivalent of 27 Sean Connerys and one Nick Nack, stacked up tall.)

Vertigo nearly kicks in. But if you're like Bond and walk with purpose — as fast as you can — at the top you're rewarded with the spectacular skyline of London's Canary Wharf financial district.

You'll also have a good view of your fellow climbers, some of them, ahem, Bond girls.

Despite my tux, they were reluctant to pose with me. But after I donned a Daniel Craig mask, they rushed in, and one bloke even let me shoot him with my fake gun. *Skyfall* cost millions. All I needed to become

a star was a \$5 sheet of thin cardboard.

And after this high climb, a stiff drink.

An Evening with Vesper

Ian Fleming coined the phrase "A Martini. Shaken, not stirred" at Duke's Hotel (St. James's Place, London), in the city's Mayfair district. It boasts a sumptuous and refined bar where hedge fund managers and art gallerists — and occasionally a dashing 007 double — sip cocktails well into the night.

No sooner had I arrived at this quaint bar than the head barman Alessandro Palazzi, in his pristine white tuxedo, whisked me to my corner table. After glancing at my own attire, he kindly says to me: "You'll want to have The Vesper."

For novices among you, The Vesper — a powerful concoction of gin, vodka, bitters and Lillet blanc aperitif wine — is regarded as the "true" 007 Martini, as it is mentioned in Ian Fleming's first Bond novel, *Casino Royale*. Alessandro makes it with three measures of No. 3 Gin (from London-based Berry Bros.), one measure of Potocki Polish vodka, one of Lillet Blanc

and two dashes of Angostura bitters, topped off with a slice of orange peel. Alessandro's preparation of the drink before my eyes was tantalizing — the taste, intoxicating. Dry, rough, smooth, potent, invigorating and \$27.70 — it had as many qualifiers as it had ingredients.

My lips and mouth had been shaken and stirred.

And finally, the Bond girl

With Vesper flowing through my bloodstream, it was high time I got to work. The mission? Chat up more potential Bond girls. Armed with a feigned ego and innuendo-filled one-liners that would embarrass M, I headed for the aptly (and worryingly) named Dirty Martini (11/12 Russell St., Covent Garden, London).

At first I was blown off and berated, even slapped at by a woman who said, "I'm too dirty for you." Burned, James, burned. Maybe some Bondian pick-up lines would work?

"Hi," I said, smoulderingly, to the fair-skinned girl with delightful auburn hair. She asked if I was American, to which I replied, "No, I'm Irish." (I really should have followed with, "Like Pierce Brosnan!") Then I

stood there mute, a case of stage fright. The woman left, forgetting all about me.

Us spies call this "pulling a Lazenby," a.k.a. "dying another day."

The big finale

Like any good Bond movie, this one has an explosive ending. Channelling my inner-Craig, I used one last pick-up line on two fine birds — "Explain this to me," it goes, "How come two gorgeous ladies like yourselves walk in and nobody tells me about it?"

They laughed — the good kind, mind you — and soon, I was chatting up someone who looks curiously similar to Eva Green as Vesper Lynd in *Casino Royale*. She even sat in my lap.

Was she on a Be a Bond Girl mission herself? That's for my eyes only.

Exclusively online

Anthony Johnston dresses as James Bond, climbs the O2 and drinks martinis. Watch the video at metronews.ca/scene



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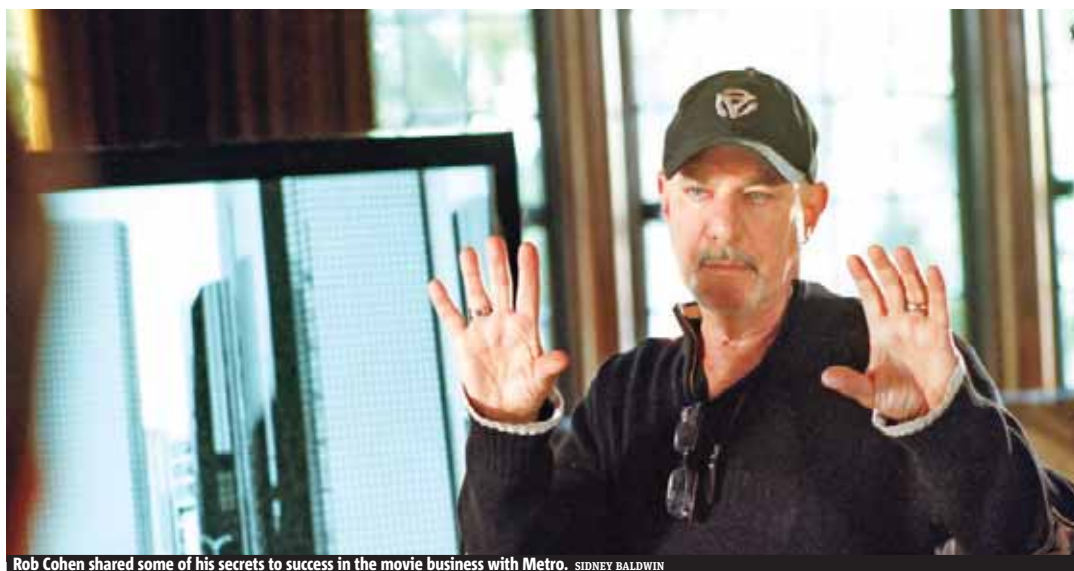
How to make a career last in Hollywood

Interview. Rob Cohen has become one of the biggest movie directors and he shares the pitfalls and perils of the business

**NED
EHRBAR**
Metro World News

Rob Cohen's latest film, the Tyler-Perry-starring franchise reboot *Alex Cross*, may have disappointed at the box office in its opening weekend — pulling in \$11.75 million in the U.S. — but don't count the prolific filmmaker out. Cohen's career has had many chapters, starting on the studio side in development before becoming a producer — for films like *Mahogany* and the *Wiz* — and then a TV and eventually film director, launching the *XXX* and the *Fast* and the *Furious* franchises. And he's still got a few tricks left up his sleeve. Here are a few lessons Cohen has learned along the way.

The secret to a long career: staying young at heart. "The secret is to always listen to the 25-year-old inside yourself, to not stop," says the 63-year-old Cohen. "I think so many people get what I'll call hardening of the categories. Like (vice-presidential candidate) Paul Ryan with *Led Zeppelin*. In other words, all the 30 or 40 more years of music don't exist. Well, culture is a living, breathing, constantly evolving organism and you can choose to keep up with that organism or you can choose to just root somewhere within it that's familiar. And



Rob Cohen shared some of his secrets to success in the movie business with Metro. SIDNEY BALDWIN

I think it's really important, if you're going to stay in a business like the movie business, that you keep moving with the edge of it. And that's just relying on the person inside you that you were when the world was new. You have to see the world with beginner's eyes and be as wondrous about it as you were the first time you heard the Rolling Stones."

Know your place in the marketplace.

"I could see that the tent-pole business was going to go to a handful of guys — (Christopher) Nolan, Zack Snyder. There are three to five of those guys that were going to get called for everything, and there's the Marvel answer, which is no money, no gross, no nothing. Do the movie, be told what

to do, be told who's going to be in it, be told what the costumes are going to look like, and then you go say action and cut. That wasn't my desire, either. I came out of episodic television. I know how to shoot a *Miami Vice* in seven days. You don't forget that stuff just because you've had \$160 million to make a movie. Some people want to forget it."

Don't give up on things — especially another *XXX* movie with Vin Diesel.

"We almost had it done at Sony, we almost had it done at Paramount, and we fell apart there," Cohen admits about the long-planned franchise relaunch. "I think now they wish they had that movie, with their release schedule. But it will rise up again. I'm just waiting for

Vin to get his head out of *Fast* and *Furious* six, seven, eight, nine and 10."

Keep track of the decades. "To have a long career — and I've had a four-decade-plus career now — you have to reinvent yourself every 10 years, pretty much. I spent

the first 10 years or so of my career as a studio executive producer, then I made myself a director and I spent the next 10 years doing some features but mostly television," Cohen says. "When I wrote and directed *Dragon: the Bruce Lee Story* in '92, that started a committed dir-

Quote

"To have a long career — and I've had a four-decade-plus career now — you have to reinvent yourself every 10 years, pretty much."

Rob Cohen
Talking about what it takes to make it in the movie business long term.

ecting career because I finally had a financial and critical hit to stand on. But then by 2001, I had to turn another card trick, and that was the *Fast* and the *Furious* — to go younger. After *The Mummy* made \$405 million, I didn't go to do another tent-pole. I thought, I'll be fighting and I'll be doing the ones with the numbers after it — two, three, four. I don't want to be there. That's almost, to a certain point, that's like being a traffic cop. And I wanted to do something that was still filmmaking-y, and that was the indie world. So that's where I'm at, and I'm going to continue, probably, in that zone. Then we'll figure something else if I'm still here in 10 years."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Timberlake provides own entertainment at wedding



A benefit of marrying someone like Justin Timberlake? Some high-quality serenading at the reception.

That's exactly what new bride Jessica Biel got during the couple's wedding celebration in Italy last week, when Timberlake reportedly grabbed the microphone to unveil some new material, according to Us Weekly.

"Justin performed one song at the wedding," a source says. "It's a new one

that he hasn't released yet. He dedicated it to Jessica."

Guests were also treated to some other Timberlake hits from the DJ, Roots drummer Questlove, who "played a bunch of Justin Timberlake songs, but no 'NSYNC," the source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Don't let Twitter comments get you down

Melanie Griffith may be regretting her decision to join the Twitter world, as some of her fan interactions have been less than pleasant.

"Most people are telling me I look horrible," she tells Us Weekly. "The tweets

I get are really nasty." But the actress doesn't let the harsh barbs get her down. Instead, she keeps focused on staying in shape — and staying humble. "I don't know if I look that great," she admits. "[But] I work out a lot. I have a trainer that I [work with] four times a week, and I do hot yoga."



Melanie Griffith



Fergie

Meth and paranoia: Fergie talks about sobering up

A paranoia-filled visit to church one day was what it took for Fergie to clean up and quit using drugs, she tells Oprah Winfrey in an interview.

"I started getting really paranoid, so I went one day into this church and I thought that the FBI and the SWAT teams were outside the church," says the singer, who says she started taking drugs — including crystal meth — in her teens. "I said, 'All right, if I go out and the FBI and the SWAT team's not out there, then it's the drugs and I'm stopping.'"

There were in fact no law enforcement officials waiting for her, and she kept her promise to herself and sobered up.

Fergie didn't, however, specify exactly when all of this happened.



Heidi Klum

Klum planning lavish Christmas with her kids

Heidi Klum is planning to stick around Los Angeles and treat her kids to a lavish Christmas celebration for their first holiday season since Klum split with husband Seal, according to People magazine. "We're

going to stay here possibly," Klum says. "We're going to get a big Christmas tree and we might go to Disneyland. We go all over the place." Whether Seal will be a part of those celebrations is yet to be seen.

Lohan refutes dad's allegations of alcohol abuse

Lindsay Lohan apparently isn't too worried about dad Michael Lohan's hopes to put the troubled actress under a conservatorship, according to Hollyscoop. "No judge would buy it," Lohan reportedly told friends.

"[The judge] would have a hard time believing the claims of someone who was investigated for insider trading, arrested for domestic violence multiple times, arrested

for assault, has a drunk driving arrest and has been in and out of jail and prison for years."

Lohan also insists that emails her dad provided to TMZ showing that her management team agrees that she's fallen off the wagon are all fabricated.

Michael, meanwhile, claims that his daughter is drinking up to a "bottle and a half" of vodka per day and using cocaine again.



Lindsay Lohan

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@ABFalecbaldwin

Please be safe in Hawaii, @IrelandBBaldwin. Avoid the sharks. The ones wearing flip flops, Ray Bans and carrying a Budweiser.



@TheEllenShow

I'm so happy for Adele and her new baby boy, who just heard the best version of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" ever.



@JessicaSimpson

Long day at work. Too lazy to wash my face off before bed! Nighty Night



@SteveMartinToGo

I'm thinking of becoming a motivational speaker. But I'm not sure. Should I? Maybe yes, maybe no. Undecided. Kinda thinking about it.

What up, Playa?

Not far from Cancun (and with a little more class), it's Playa del Carmen

CASSANDRA GARRISON
Metro World News

One of the fastest developing vacation spots in Mexico, Playa del Carmen is the perfect destination for everything from family getaways to bachelor parties. Many American entrepreneurs have found Playa to be an ideal location for starting a business, making it a smart choice for those who aren't fluent in Spanish or don't want to sacrifice the comforts of home. With direct flights into nearby Cancun and temperatures remaining in the 20s, Playa del Carmen offers an easy, affordable escape from the increasingly chilly air.



Who needs Cancun when you've got Playa del Carmen? THINKSTOCK

Stay

There are countless all-inclusive resorts nestled along the beaches leading into the city, but for a more unique experience, opt for a downtown location for your home base like the Acanto Boutique Hotel (16 Norte bis, 1-888-331-2177). Sitting along a shaded cobblestone street, this hotel offers travellers spacious suites that lend themselves to longer stays. The private rooftop decks, equipped with barbecues and hot tubs, afford stunning beach views and breathtaking night skies. Acanto is close to Quinto Avenida (or Fifth Avenue, as it's known to tourists) and steps to Playa's many beach clubs, where you can lounge along the shore.



Play

The sprawling lounge chairs and couches at Zenzi Beach Club (on the beach at 10 Street, 984-803-5738) make it hard to resist a pina colada, day or night. People-watch while you sit back and sip your way to relaxation. If you're a cigar enthusiast, visit the quaint Cigar Factory on the corner of Fifth Avenue and 16 Street, where elderly cigar rollers will be hard at work at a table in the window.



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There's more to Casablanca than Humphrey Bogart

Often overlooked city. Morocco's art deco destination offers markets, beaches and some amazing architecture

Despite its romantic Hollywood associations, the sprawling ocean-side city of Casablanca is often overlooked by tourists heading for the beach or Morocco's more exotic cities like Marrakech. But this bustling city of four million, Morocco's commercial capital, is a vibrant mix of old and new with gorgeous art-deco architecture, traditional souqs (markets), one of the world's largest mosques and some picturesque beaches of its own.

The downtown

A small port city until the French chose it as the capital of its "protectorate" over Morocco in 1912, Casablanca blossomed under the attention of some of France's foremost architects who now had room to create

outside the crowded cities of Europe. The nouvelle ville, as the downtown was known, was done in an art deco meets Middle Eastern style that is still stunning to behold, if you can look up long enough while dodging crowded sidewalks and zooming cars.

Luckily, the centre of it all, the elegant Mohammed V Boulevard, has been made a pedestrian street while a new tram system is installed. So until the sleek, French-built trams start running by the end of the year, you can stroll down the middle of the street, admiring the handsome buildings from the 1920s and 1930s.

The 'new' old city

Like most Moroccan cities, Casablanca has a "medina" or walled old city of winding alleys, except here it's smaller than most and quite run down, with most shops devoted to day-to-day items that are of little interest to the visitor. The French decided in the 1920s they would build a nicer medina and created the Habous neighbourhood just a

15-minute drive away, featuring elegant arches and white-washed buildings.

Habous is much cleaner and quieter than the downtown and is filled with handicrafts shops selling the traditional ceramics, leather slippers, embroidered caftans and metal lamps that tourists flood to Morocco to buy. Since most of the customers are locals as well, the quality tends to be higher than the tourist bazaars of Marrakech. There is also little of the hard sell that can blight a trip to the market in some of the other cities.

The mosque

In the medieval world, kings left their mark by building massive monuments in their name. A modern king, Hassan II of Morocco, who ruled the country for almost four decades until 1999, did the same. Amid the crashing waves of the Atlantic, he built a mosque so enormous it looms over the whole city, with a retractable roof and a laser on the minaret. Faced with pale stone and ornamented with colourful inlaid geomet-

ric patterns and traditional tiles, it can hold 25,000 worshippers inside. The vast esplanade around the mosque is often filled with families enjoying the open space and the quiet, and there's a great view of the sea. The mosque was built through mandatory contributions from all citizens. Unlike most mosques in Morocco, non-Muslims are allowed inside, but only on guided tours in the mornings and afternoons that run \$15 a person.

The beach

Once on the city's coast, keep heading south toward the Ain Diab area, where the nicest beaches can be found. First there are the hotels and nightclubs of the wealthy Anfa district, but eventually they peter out and what's left is the corniche, a kind of boardwalk, with some great beaches pounded by Atlantic waves. Along the road there are popcorn and drink vendors, while on the beach itself young men offer pony or horse rides.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The mall

Just beyond the saint's shrine looms the shiny bulbous mass of Morocco's first luxury mall. In the 10-minute walk from the shrine to the glass doors of the Imax cinema, you can move from the extremes of Morocco's social classes. Inside it's all Ralph Lauren and Christian Dior with an enormous fish tank featuring small sharks. In the fenced-off outside area, the musical fountain performs every hour. Most Moroccans can't afford the luxury items on sale, but the place is always packed. People window shop across the three floors and gawk at how Morocco's one per cent aspires to live.

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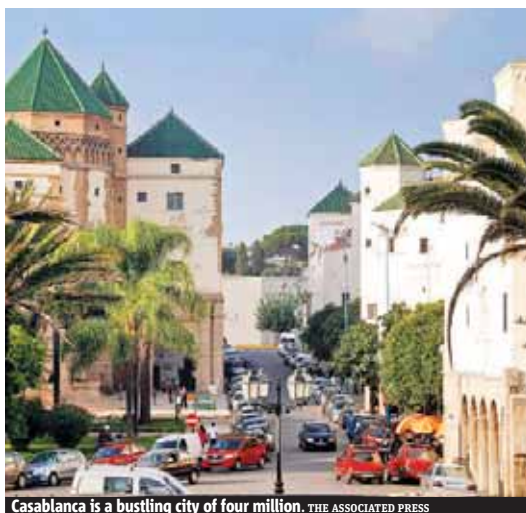
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The old medina. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Casablanca is a bustling city of four million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Casablanca is a vibrant mix of old and new. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

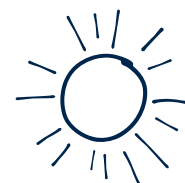


Casablanca's Hassan II mosque, one of the biggest mosques in the world. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Chorizo steals spotlight in roasted chicken and veggie dish

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Combine salt and garlic powder, rub mix over and under the skin of the chicken. Set aside.

2. In a 5 1/2-quart Dutch oven over medium-high, heat oil. Add chicken and sear 5 mins. per side. Transfer chicken to plate.

3. Add chorizo to pan, sauté 4 mins. Add thyme and rosemary. Heat 30 seconds. Return chicken to pan, breast up. Arrange onion, carrots, potatoes, lemon and garlic around chicken; place lid on pot. Transfer to oven and roast 45 mins, or until the breast reads 160 F on an instant thermometer. Transfer chicken to platter and tent with foil. Use slotted spoon to transfer veg and chorizo to serving bowl. Cover to keep warm. Discard lemon quarters and any herb stems.

4. Place the pot over medium heat and bring to a boil. Cook until reduced and thickened, about 3 to 4 minutes. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper.

Serve the sauce drizzled over the chicken.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

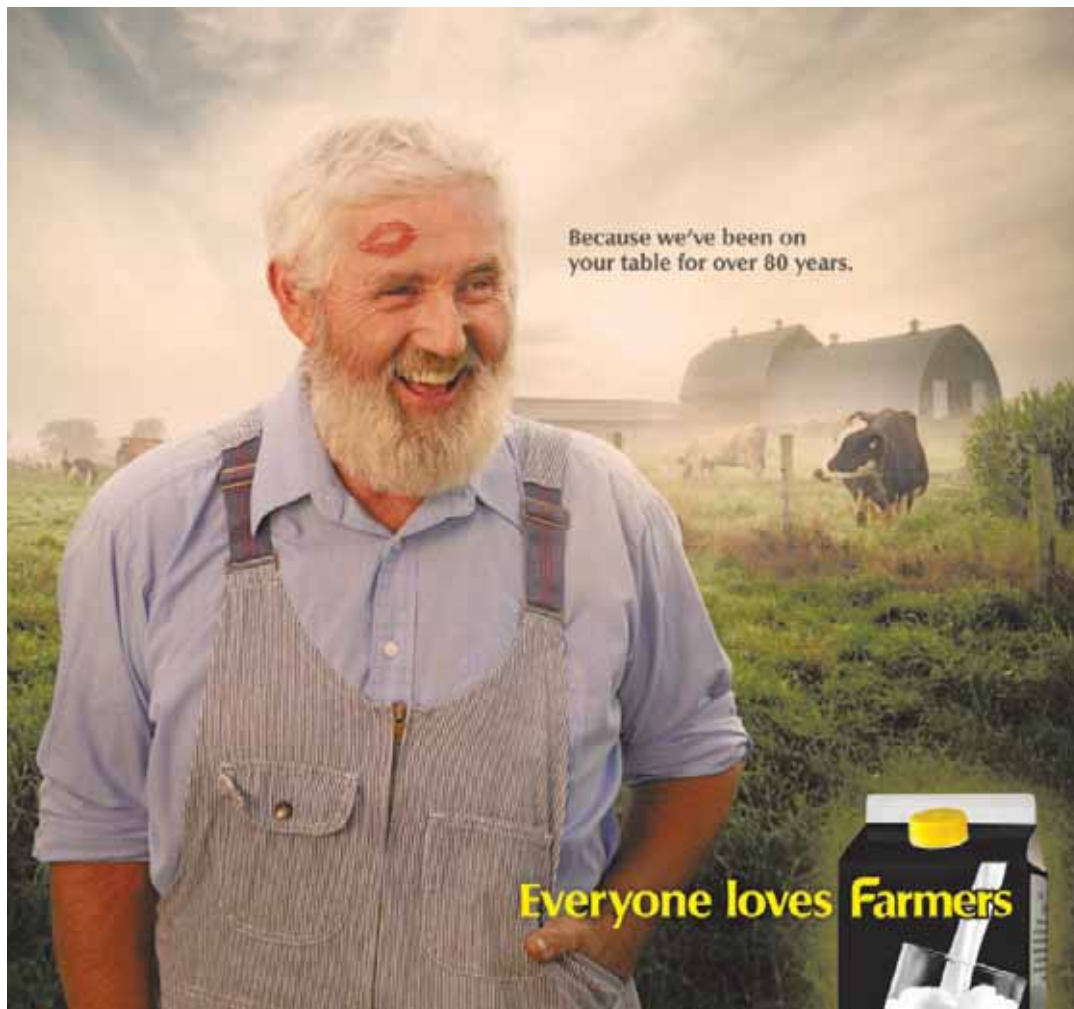
Roasted chicken with chorizo and root veggies



This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- 3- to 4-lb whole chicken
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb cooking chorizo, casing removed and discarded, meat finely chopped
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme
- 3 sprig fresh rosemary
- 1 medium yellow onion, quartered
- 12-oz bag baby carrots
- 1 lb new potatoes
- 1 lemon, quartered
- 6 cloves garlic, peeled but left whole
- Ground black pepper, to taste



Parsnips give potatoes run for their money



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winter is the season for parsnips, though when some varieties get too mature they develop a woody core, which then needs to be cut out. Otherwise, these sneaky little devils are a wonderful, lighter alternative to actual mashed potatoes.

They're made by reserving the liquid in which they are cooked, boiling it down until it becomes syrupy, then adding it back to the puréed parsnips.

So simple, but such amazing results. This greatly decreases the wateriness that typically afflicts non-starchy vegetables when they're puréed. Indeed, it thickens the purée.

1. Place parsnips large saucepan, add enough cold water to cover by 1 inch. Bring to boil over high heat and add a pinch of salt. Reduce heat to medium-high and simmer, adding little more water if necessary to keep the parsnips barely covered, until tender, 25 to 30 minutes.

2. Drain and reserve cooking liquid. Set parsnips aside and return liquid to pan. Bring to boil over high heat. Boil until reduced to 3/4 cup. Return parsnips to pan and add butter. Working in batches, transfer contents of saucepan to food processor and puree.

3. Return to saucepan, season with salt and pepper, then heat over medium until hot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/SARA MOULTON OF PUBLIC TELEVISION'S SARA'S WEEKNIGHT MEALS AND AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS

Ingredients

- 2 lbs medium parsnips, peeled and sliced 1/2-inch thick
- Kosher salt, to taste
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- Ground black pepper, to taste

Drink of the Week

Pinnacle Pumpkin Cider

It doesn't get more autumn than pumpkin pie and cider, and this drink combines the best of both worlds. It also adds a splash of lemon for a tart taste.

- 2 parts Pinnacle Pumpkin Pie vodka
- 1 part apple cider
- A splash of fresh lemon sour soda

Shake the vodka, apple cider and lemon sour with ice.

Strain into a caramel-swirled glass and garnish with an apple slice.

METRO
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Unique side dish. Sweet-and-sour-glazed carrots and green beans

1. In deep skillet over medium heat, cook bacon until crisp. Transfer to paper towel-lined plate to drain, leaving drippings in pan. Once bacon has cooled, crumble and set aside.

2. Return skillet to heat and add the carrots. Cook 8 mins., or until just starting tender. Add green beans; cook 8 mins., or until veg tender. Add brown sugar, molasses and vinegar. Stir until thick glaze forms. Cook until bubbling all over and slightly thick and sticky. Season with salt and pepper.

3. Serve topped with the crumbled bacon. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 4 oz bacon
- 1 lb carrots, peeled and cut into 1/4-inch thick rounds
- 1 lb green beans, trimmed and cut into 2-inch lengths
- 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp molasses
- 1 to 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- Kosher salt and black pepper

Is it the perfect place for your pursuit?

Education or the elements? The program sounds great, but what about its whereabouts?

DANIELLE LORENZ
TalentEgg.ca

You've been doing your research to apply to grad schools — looking at the school, the program, the faculty, its facilities and services, its reputation and its academic requirements.

However, one thing you must also do your research on is the location of your program.

Many students tend not to consider how much living in a certain city will cost, and that should be almost as important as the school itself, since those costs are very much linked together. Since you will be spending anywhere between 12 and 24 months as a full-time student at these schools, you need to consider the city the school is located in as well.

Climate

Let's say you abhor all things snowy and cold. Even though



Consider whether your new place to study will have you concentrating more on cash flow than your credits. iStock

the University of Alberta and the University of Manitoba have programs that suit your research interests, how well are you going to be able to cope with temperatures that can be as low as (and sometimes even colder than) -40C?

Similarly, if you detest rain, the University of British Columbia or McMaster University won't be good choices for you.

Cost of living

Although the climate and temperature can have a lot to do with how you will enjoy the city, you need to also examine the cost of living.

Because some locales are more isolated or have shorter growing seasons, groceries can be much more expensive in some areas over others. However, in smaller towns, there is often less variety and it can be more difficult for you to purchase specialty foods.

In other cities, the climate is great, or it is close to major financial or cultural centres, so the cost of living there is much

greater than other places with in Canada

Moving costs

One of the last things you should consider is how much it will cost you to move to this new city. If you are moving cross-country, the cost of renting a vehicle to bring all of your stuff can be upwards of \$10,000 or more. This can include the rental of a truck/trailer, insur-

ance, a fee per kilometre you drive, the cost of gas, the fees issued by the rental company to drive their vehicle back, as well as buying food and renting a hotel room.

If you opt to bring only the essentials with you, furnishing an apartment can be expensive as well. If you only plan to live in that city for the length of your program, perhaps it's more worthwhile to live in resi-

dence for some of the time.

DANIELLE LORENZ IS A PHD STUDENT IN THE EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, WITH A FOCUS IN THEORETICAL, CULTURAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN EDUCATION.

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When I was in school, I was getting a lot of volunteer work as assistant stage manager and other production positions in theatre. That is kind of my dream job — to work anywhere in theatre. It was great, however, as a volunteer, I wasn't making any money from.

To pay the bills I worked in retail. That was fine, but I seem to have really bad luck because everywhere I've worked for so far either closed shop or went bankrupt. It's very hard to maintain contacts to these businesses because when it comes time to ask for references, they can't be reached. So I have to use my theatre references, but of course that probably seems odd to someone in retail or any other job because to them, it seems like I didn't get along with my peers in non-related theatre work.

I even worked with my family's company that had been in business for 40 years until that too went under. So I had to go find another job. And have I mentioned that I have the

worst luck with jobs? People I work for in theatre say they love to have me around on a project because I am a trooper. Easy to say, maybe, because they don't pay me, but I know they wouldn't say it if it wasn't true.

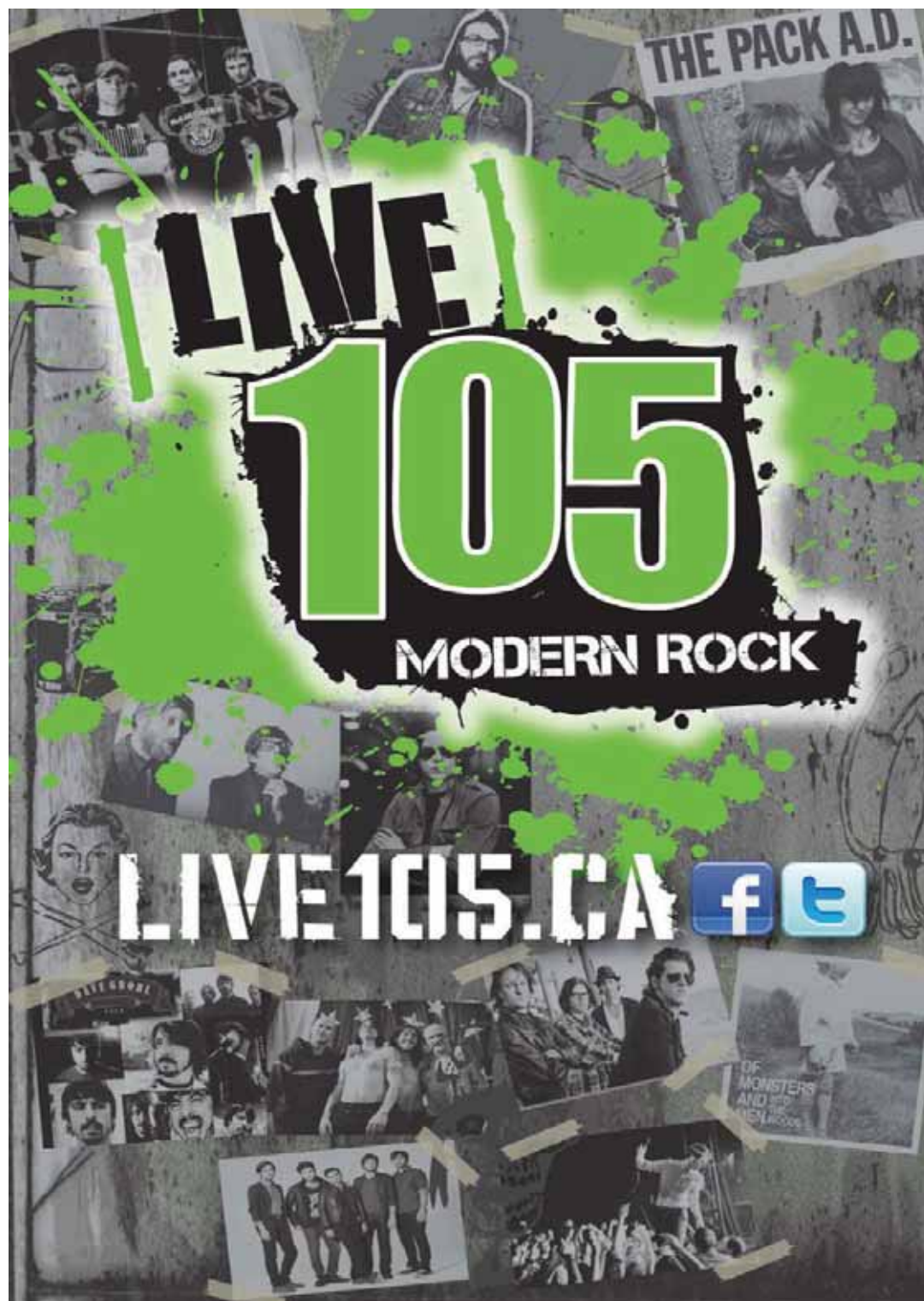
I have been applying to so many full-time positions without much luck. I've been on second and even third interviews, and nothing. So with years and years of getting nothing, it's starting to take a toll on my self-esteem. All I want is a job to pay my bills so I can do something I love to do, or maybe even go back to school to further my career, but without knowing how I am going to make money, my future seems dim.

I used to be a very happy go-lucky person. I still act like it in my job, but now I just want to get out of this situation so I can be my real happy self again.

My advice for students and recent grads

Don't get a theatre arts degree. If you do, at least go back to school again to do art administration or technical design as a backup.

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Mooseheads forward Darcy Ashley. METRO FILE

Ashley has hand in Herd success

QMJHL. Goals or not, veteran making his presence felt



MATTHEW WUEST

matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads coaching staff will tell you Darcy Ashley doesn't need to score to make his presence felt, and the 19-year-old doesn't dispute that.

But while recognizing the myriad of things he does for his team that will never show up on a score sheet, Ashley also doesn't want to ever again see another 24-game goalless slump like the one he ended Sunday.

"I think hockey players go through those kinds of things sometimes," said Ashley, who has 12 points in 13 games but hadn't scored since Game 1 of the QMJHL quarter-finals against the Quebec Remparts on April 6.

"It creates adversity and you have to persevere through it and keep going and keep working."

Injury update

Drouin back, 3 others ailing

The QMJHL-leading Halifax Mooseheads, already winners of 10 straight games, will get a big boost on Wednesday with the return of star left-winger Jonathan Drouin for their home game against the Drummondville Voltigeurs.

Drouin, who has missed six straight games with an upper-body injury, participated in full contact practice on Tuesday and head coach Dominique Ducharme

said he will reclaim his spot on the top line with Nathan MacKinnon and Stefan Fournier.

The 17-year-old left-winger was leading the Mooseheads with 15 points in seven games before suffering the injury.

"You couldn't tell he was injured," Ducharme said after watching Drouin practice.

But defencemen MacKenzie Weegar and Brendan Duke and forward Max Lindsay didn't practise Tuesday because of a virus and all three will be game-day decisions. **MATTHEW WUEST/METRO**



Jonathan Drouin METRO FILE

Working is what the five-foot-eight Ashley does best, whether he's scoring or not. He has always been known for his dogged determination — named co-winner of the team's hardest-working-player award last season along with

Trey Lewis — but with the departures of captain Cameron Critchlow and penalty-killing ace Brad Cuzner, he's needed more than ever to provide a jolt of energy.

Although the Brooklyn, P.E.I., native has been used on

three different lines through 13 games — most recently with the surging duo of Matthew Boudreau and Luca Ciampini — he's made every one of them click.

"If you look at last year, everywhere we put Critchlow, any line combination, it seemed to work — and it's the same with Darcy this year," said Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme. "With (Nathan) MacKinnon, with Boudreau, with (Brent) Andrews, he always seems to bring energy to the guys he's playing with."

Ducharme is using Ashley on both special teams and said "quite often, he's bringing momentum on our side" through his agitating style and willingness to fight for the puck.

That's not to discount Ashley's offensive contributions. He finished among the Mooseheads' top four scorers the past two seasons and is coming off a 23-goal, 55-point campaign. If he can get back to finding the net with his usual frequency, he'll be in that group again.

"It felt great to get the monkey off my back," Ashley said. "I'm hoping I can pot a few more the next few games and stay consistent scoring goals."

Hockey/Court

Former Moosehead Yetman convicted of sexual assault

Former Halifax Mooseheads goaltender Mark Yetman has been found guilty on two counts of sexual assault, but not guilty on two counts of choking and one count of threatening, according to the Niagara Falls Review.

A 12-person jury reached the verdict on Tuesday following a weeklong trial in St. Catharines Superior Court in Ontario.

The 24-year-old from St. John's, N.L., was arrested in January 2010 on charges stemming from a December 2009 incident involving two women in Thorold, Ont. He was attending and playing hockey for Brock University at the time.

Yetman, who suited up for the Mooseheads from 2006 to 2009 and now plays senior hockey in Newfoundland with the Grand Falls-Windsor Cataracts, will return to St. Catharines court for pre-sentencing on Jan. 11, according to the Niagara Falls Review.

He is among the Mooseheads' all-time leaders in a number of goaltending categories, finishing third in games played (108), fourth in minutes (5,670) and seventh in wins (43). He had a career goals-against average of 3.69 and a save percentage of .880. **METRO**



Mark Yetman during his days with the Mooseheads. METRO FILE

Hockey

Pye earns place on Canada East club

Halifax Mooseheads draft choice Brandon Pye has cracked the Canada East selection camp roster for the world junior A challenge.

The 18-year-old Truro Bearcats forward is one of four Atlantic Canadians on a tryout roster loaded with players from Ontario and Quebec. The selection camp runs from Oct. 28 to 31, while the world junior A challenge will be played in Yarmouth from Nov. 5 to 11.

Pye, who played two games for the Mooseheads last season, is one of the top considerations for call-up should injuries strike the QMJHL club. **METRO**

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How they made it



Giants: Finished first in the NL West and were the league's third seed behind the Nationals and Reds. The Giants fell behind 0-2 at home in the NLDS, flying to Cincinnati where they rolled off three straight wins. In the NLCS vs. the Cardinals, the inspiration came from a dirty slide that threatened to take 2B Marco Scutaro out of the series with knee damage. The former Blue Jay bounced back to be NLCS MVP batting .500. The Giants are a record 6-0 in elimination games.



Tigers: Rushed past the White Sox down the stretch to win the AL Central despite just 88 wins. RH Justin Verlander is the man for the Tigers, beating Oakland twice in the ALDS and the Yankees once in the ALCS with a 0.74 ERA, averaging over eight innings per start. The A's took it to five games before Verlander shut them out. The Tigers swept the Yankees and have been on the sidelines since last Friday waiting for an opponent. Detroit's rotation has been overpowering.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Tigers ace Justin Verlander delivers during Game 3 of the ALCS against the New York Yankees in Detroit on Oct. 16. GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Verlander returns to Series on October roll

Tigers' best. Detroit ace looks to put behind early career disappointments on World Series stage

Justin Verlander's introduction to post-season baseball six years ago left him dazzled and exhausted.

Worn down toward the end of his rookie season, he made his playoff debut at Yankee Stadium. A couple weeks later, he was on the mound for Game 1 of the World Series.

"It was such a whirlwind, really, that entire season. I remember standing on the mound in old Yankee Stadium ... and growing up as a kid you see all of the post-season games and all of the magic that had happened in that stadium, and it was kind of a surreal moment for me," the Detroit ace said.

"I feel like I have pitched

Second chance in San Francisco

Barry Zito will start the World Series opener for the San Francisco Giants Wednesday night.

- Zito's stellar outing in a 5-0 win on Friday in Game 5 of the NL championship series helped San Francisco rally from a 3-1 series deficit against the St.



Louis Cardinals.

- The Giants have won Zito's last 13 starts dating to Aug. 7. The \$126-million pitcher was left off all three rounds of the 2010 post-season when San Francisco won the World Series.

in big games now and understand what my body's going to be going through and what my mind is going to be going through and I am able to rein it in a little more and use it more to my advantage."

Verlander is now 29 and he returns to the Fall Classic a more mature pitcher. In three playoff starts against Oakland and the New York Yankees, he's allowed all of two runs

going into Wednesday night's opening game at San Francisco.

"He's learned to handle these situations. He's learned how to stay pretty calm throughout the game in these big-game situations," manager Jim Leyland said.

The six-foot-five right-hander makes pitching look effortless, settling into a groove early without necessar-

ily reaching back for his triple-digit fastball until the later innings.

Verlander went 24-5 in 2011, sweeping the AL MVP and Cy Young awards. Although he won only 17 games this year, his ERA was still a sparkling 2.64.

Of course, in 2006, Verlander started Game 1 of the World Series, and the Tigers lost to St. Louis 7-2. Those travails are all but forgotten now.

On Wednesday night, Verlander will go back to work, with his usual business-like attitude and tireless approach. He still won't take anything for granted. Verlander's well aware that no matter how talented you are, anything can happen in October.

"Every game in the post-season is a must-win," Verlander said. "In the post-season we have seen some crazy things happen in this game. Just try to win every single game one inning at a time."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roster rundown



Giants:

Offence: Have been led by the play of 2B Marco Scutaro and the voice of RF Hunter Pence. In C Buster Posey's only full season they won the 2010 World Series.

Pitching: RH Ryan Vogelsong has been the man in the rotation. RH Matt Cain is a workhorse, but has struggled at times, while LH Barry Zito has pitched well recently. The Giants replaced injured closer Brian Wilson with Sergio Romo, who has the beard for the job.



Tigers:

Offence: DH Delmon Young drove in the winning run in all four games against the Yankees. They boast the powerful 3-4 combo of Triple Crown winner 3B Miguel Cabrera and 1B Prince Fielder.

Pitching: All the talk is about RH Justin Verlander, but RH Doug Fister, RH Max Scherzer and RH Anibal Sanchez have also pitched well. They've had rest, so the longer the series, the advantage goes to Detroit. The Tigers have been forced to go to LH Phil Coke as the closer with RH Jose Valverde struggling.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NHLPA irked at teams' contact with players



Players, from left, Dan Cleary, Sidney Crosby, Jarome Iginla, Eric Staal and Shane Doan leave collective bargaining negotiations last Thursday in Toronto.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Distrust continues to creep into the NHL's stalled labour negotiations.

The NHL Players' Association was questioning the league's motives after news surfaced Tuesday that team owners and general managers were given 48 hours last week to speak with players about the NHL's latest contract offer.

"Most owners are not allowed to attend bargaining meetings," said Steve Fehr, the NHLPA's special counsel. "No owners are allowed to speak to the media about the bargaining. It is interest-

Before the window

Since the lockout began, the NHL had forbidden contact between team officials and players.

- It was unclear how many players were contacted.

ing that they are secretly unleashed to talk to the players about the meetings the players can attend, but the owners cannot."

The window was granted

at the same time the NHL took the unusual step of publishing its entire proposal on its website last Wednesday. Team employees were told they could answer questions about the offer from players until 11:59 p.m. on Friday.

"Players were contacting club personnel to inquire about our proposal," said deputy commissioner Bill Daly. "We gave them a limited window in which to respond to those inquiries."

The NHL sent out strict guidelines prior to allowing club personnel to speak with

players for the first time since the work stoppage began on Sept. 15, but didn't alert the union it was doing so.

In a lengthy internal memo obtained by The Canadian Press, the NHL stated clearly that the discussions had to be limited to the contents of the proposal. It also provided examples of questions that shouldn't be asked of players and noted that any violation would be subject to NHL bylaw 17.17, which gives commissioner Gary Bettman the power to levy fines up to \$250,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Escape in the 2013 Malibu



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Green option

For buyers with a green streak, the Malibu Eco features a 182-horse 2.4-litre four-cylinder and a special 15-horsepower electric motor/generator that adds "eAssist" via a belt drive during acceleration and passing. Called a "mild hybrid" because the Malibu Eco cannot run on electric power alone.



The trunk is very spacious

2013 Chevrolet Malibu

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel mid-size sedan.
- **Engines (hp):** 2.5l DOHC I4 (197), 2.0l DOHC I4 (259), 2.4l DOHC I4 with 15kw motor (182, net)
- **Transmission.** Six speed auto.
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$26,500

Interior styling

Cabin styling, which was the previous Malibu's strong suit, hasn't veered off course for 2013. The dual cockpit-style seating arrangement, with its wrap-around dashboard and centre stack, returns in roughly the same format, but the controls and switches are laid out in a more straightforward fashion.

Design

On the outside, the Malibu's athletic lines reveal a more prominent grille and Camaro-influenced taillights at the opposite end. The range-topping LTZ is upgraded with brighter high-intensity discharge (HID) headlights and faster-acting light-emitting diode (LED) taillights.

Review. It's really three separate cars under the same banner

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

To be a mid-sized sedan in this day and age means that you actually have to be a lot more than just a mid-sized sedan.

You have to have a super-attractive entry price. You also have to show that you like clean air, trees and fluffy rabbits romping in fields. And, you have to be sporty enough for moms and dads who gave up their two-door cars when the stork came calling. But, since you can't really put all of that together in one car, the Malibu — and others in this class — have separate models to take care of a broad buyer base.

Once considered somewhat plain and uninspiring in a rental-fleet sort of way, the Malibu regained its groove for the 2008 model year with sharp styling, thoughtfully designed interior

appointments and competent road manners. The reviews bordered on gushing, sales spiked and the mid-size Chevy was walking proud again. The new 2013 Malibu has been repurposed for new challenges and increased sedan-class competitiveness. From top to bottom it's a completely different car, starting with a more rigid platform based on the Opel Insignia (also part of GM).

Exterior dimensions are closely aligned with the outgoing Malibu, except for about 11.5 centimetres of shrinkage between the front and rear wheels. Despite this deficit, most key passenger- and cargo-area measurements, except legroom, have actually increased. The speedometer and tachometer gauge pods are located in what are clearly Chevrolet Camaro-inspired housings. As with other recently launched GM sedans, the Malibu comes with 10 standard airbags, including front-knee inflatables.

In short, the 2013 Malibu offers a variety of models to a diverse group of buyers. Welcome to the modern mid-size sedan.



The Malibu's taillight influence is undeniable. All models are front-wheel drive and have some sort of four-cylinder propulsion.



The gauge layout will likely remind you of the Chevrolet Camaro.

By comparison



- 1** Ford Fusion
Base price: \$24,050



- 2** Nissan Altima
Base price: \$25,200



- 3** Mazda6
Base price: \$25,700

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2005 to 2007 Honda Accord Hybrid

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Pressing towards greater environmental sensibility, Honda launched a hybrid variant of their popular Accord sedan for the 2005 model year. The relatively short-lived model lasted through till 2007 and was never a sales success — though it furthered the automaker's reputation in the hybrid vehicle scene.

Look for an Accord Hybrid with heated leather seats, a navigation system, premium audio, remote entry, steering-wheel mounted audio controls and all of the other toys available in loaded-up Accord models.

Common issues

Check for a vibration or "tone" emitted from the Accord Hybrid's engine compartment, which is likely caused by a malfunction in the "Active Noise Cancellation" circuitry. When this system doesn't work properly, the sound is noticeable as cylinders are deactivated. If it's working, drivers shouldn't hear it.

Another possible issue may be related to the transmission. Some drivers report a clunking, surging or vibration apparent when shifting gears. If the Accord Hybrid you're considering doesn't feel like it's shifting properly, be double sure to have it checked out.



Engine

By adding their Integrated Motor Assist (IMA) system to the Accord's V6 powerplant, output climbed from the standard 240 horsepower to 255.

What owners dislike

Complaints include seat comfort, some cheap interior trim pieces and lower-than-expected handling performance due to the Accord Hybrid's fuel-saving tires.

What owners like

Owners gravitated initially toward the model because of its promise of elevated performance and good real-world mileage. Honda's reliability and reputation for safety and a refined driving experience attracted shoppers, too.

Verdict

Shop carefully, test-drive thoroughly, and try to find a model that's familiar to the selling Honda dealer. A full checkup is mandatory, and an extended warranty that covers the hybrid drivetrain components isn't a bad idea either.

ALL PHOTOS HANDOUT



Accord's engine has 255 horsepower

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Time waits for no bench seat

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AUTO PILOT
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As far as bittersweet good-byes go, it's not one of the big ones. Not like when the McRib sandwich was dropped off the permanent menu at McDonald's.

But brace we must, for the coming demise of the front 'bench' seat.

The 2013 Chevrolet Impala is the last sedan standing in North America that can be equipped with a front bench. We got word last month that the all-new 2014 Chevrolet Impala being readied for sale sometime in 2013 will not be offered with a bench seat option. So when the 2014 Impala replaces the 2013 version, it's all over, for Chevrolet and for the North American industry.

Chevrolet has been a purveyor of bench-seat equipped



The 2013 Chevrolet Impala is the last in a long line of sedans to have front bench seats. The Cadillac ATS is among the first in line to offer a 'safety seat'. HANDOUT

cars since 1911, with the launch of its very first car — the Series C Classic Six.

You can still get front benches in pickups and some SUVs, but their time in passenger cars has clearly passed. GM noted that only about one in 10 Impalas are currently sold with the bench option.

Why did they fall out

of favour? Well, we could start with general discomfort, stemming from their too close association with the church pew, their total lack of lateral support during cornering and the lovely, non-verbal way they lately came to say "fleet car" and/or "I'm not trying anymore, bucket seats are just too cool for me."

But they definitely had their day in the sun. For decades, they were the go-to front seat — for value, for getting the most people in a car and for keeping things cozy between you and your sweetie. It will always be an endearing image — a gal sitting tight beside her guy behind the wheel, while the far right seat goes empty. It's

probably not a coincidence that the drive-in movie theatre and the front bench seat have simultaneously declined in popularity — they needed each other.

Time and seat progress marches on. Recently, I drove the new 2013 Cadillac ATS. A great car and one of the first to debut Cadillac's new "safety seat," which

GM bills as "the industry's first to use directional tactile sensation — vibration of the driver's seat bottom — to warn of crash threats while driving and parking." (The operative word is "directional." Back in 2005, Citroën introduced its "vibrating seat" alarm.)

The seat features two vibrating mechanisms. If the threat is on the left (drifting left, object left), the left motor generates a pulsing motion destined, presumably, for your left butt cheek. If the threat is on the right, your right butt cheek gets the message. Threats from the front or rear trigger pulses on both sides of the seat.

I purposely drifted the ATS over the centre line in the road to experience this butt warning. It felt good ... No, I mean it did its job — it's very effective at getting your attention. So we've moved from a seat that allowed one body to slide up nice and tight to another body, to one that sends mechanical vibrations to your butt. I guess it's progress.

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Be wary of how winter taxes your fuel intake

Part of being a smart, safe, fuel-efficient driver includes knowing how to achieve good results even in the worst weather. Did you know, for example, that the combined effects of various conditions can increase fuel consumption more in winter than summer? While it may sound obscure, when you break it down it really makes sense.

• Drivers should expect higher fuel consumption in cold weather. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that a drop in temperature from 24 C to 7 C increased fuel consumption

in urban commutes by 12 to 28 per cent.

• Aerodynamic resistance is greater in winter. Cold, dry winter air is about 12 per cent denser than warm, humid summer air, increasing highway fuel consumption by about 1.3 per cent in winter. The average wind speed is also higher in winter, which contributes to increased aerodynamic resistance and fuel consumption.

• Winter roads create difficult driving conditions. Roads tend to be rougher in the winter, with increased asphalt deterioration and a mix of snow, ice, slush,

water, salt, gravel, and sand. The engine works harder to offset the increased rolling resistance, as the tires must push aside heavy snow and road cover. Snow and ice also increase wheel slippage, which results in higher fuel consumption. U.S. EPA data shows fuel consumption can increase from seven to 35 per cent as a result of poor road conditions, depending on the surface type and snow load.

• Winter gas normally has lower energy density. Gasoline composition is seasonally and geographically adjusted based on historical temperature data. A litre of winter gas has less energy

than a litre of summer gas, typically in the range of 1.5 to three per cent. Diesel fuel is similarly affected.

• Winter driving taxes the vehicle's electrical system. Except for using air conditioning on hot summer days, a vehicle's electrical loads are normally higher in cold weather due to greater demand from heating, defrosting, heated seats, heated mirrors and increased use of the windshield wipers and washer pump. The energy for these electrical loads is provided by the vehicle's electrical system, which obtains power from the engine.

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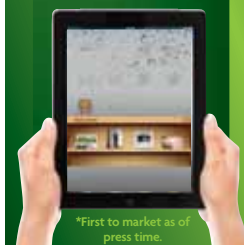
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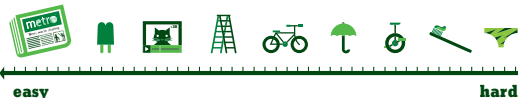


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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You are rarely subtle in the way you say things and today you will speak your mind without fear or favour. Leave others in no doubt at all that you are not amused by what has been going on of late.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Not everyone can live up to your exacting standards, so make allowances for those whose efforts fall short of the mark. The quality you most need to develop is patience. It won't be easy but it can be done.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You need to slow down and take life at a more leisurely pace. The planets warn that mistakes will be made unless you think things through carefully over the next few days. Remember, your health always comes first.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You have much to look forward to over the next few weeks, so don't waste time or energy on things that no longer matter. Whatever yesterday's problems were, it's time to put them out of your mind forever.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Keep telling yourself that you are supposed to make mistakes and that it's not necessarily bad when things go wrong. The important thing now is that you learn from setbacks and make sure they don't happen again.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

What someone is saying about you is designed to make you feel bad about yourself, but you don't have to play their silly game. You know what you are capable of. You are perfect just the way you are.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Find ways to streamline your daily routine so you have more time for personal matters such as affairs of the heart. Most likely you are doing things for other people that they should be doing for themselves. Enough is enough.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Play by the rules and don't give your enemies an opportunity to catch you out. If you demand the highest standards of other people, they have the right to demand the highest standards of you.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Someone who has a lot of charm will make a big impression on you today but are they as nice as they look? If your sixth sense tells you to be on your guard, you would be wise to listen to it.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Forget about tomorrow and focus on what you are supposed to be doing right now. Take each day as it comes and tackle a single task at a time. One small task completed is better than ten big tasks left unfinished.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

Stop worrying that the sky is about to fall and start doing the things that will make your existence more secure. For starters, you should be pushing ahead with a creative project. Time's running out.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

A loved one is in need of cheering up and you are the one who can help. Make it your business to put the smile back on their face and, in doing so, your own worries will fade away too. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Two Cities, One Rocker, and Stuff for Walls

Across

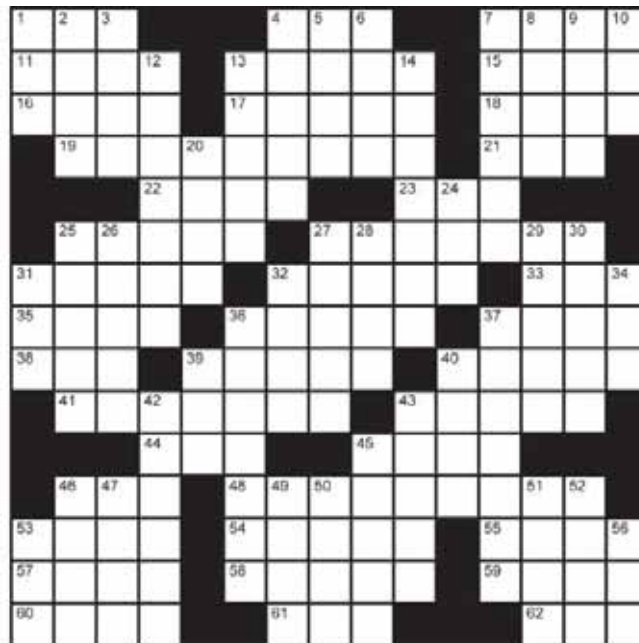
1. Parliamentarians
4. African antelope also known as a wildebeest
7. Not this
11. Comic Sandler
13. French coin replaced by the euro
15. Nevada's "The Biggest Little City in the World"
16. Crafty
17. Starbucks order
18. Sandwich cookie
19. Saskatchewan's largest city
21. Body part right above the neck
22. Benedict XVI or John Paul II
23. ___ la la
25. Egyptians and Iraqis
27. Home of the Argo-nauts
31. Wonderland girl
32. With ___ breath: anxiously
33. Basis for a Quaker cereal
35. Small inlet
36. Ancient Celtic priest
37. "Are not!" playground retort (2 wds.)
38. Before: poetic
39. Years 13 through 19
40. Peaks of perfection
41. See 24-Down
43. Bows one's head in church
44. Deity
45. Street
46. Windsor product
48. Wallpaper alternative
53. One of the Great Lakes
54. By oneself

55. Long, long time

57. Flower sites
58. Appellations
59. Fiddler while Rome burned
60. Hive dwellers
61. Repair tears
62. Blade moisture, in the morning

Down

1. PC alternative
2. BlackBerrys and Palm Pilots
3. A long tale such as *Beowulf*
4. Prepare parmesan
5. Mutual defense org. to which Canada and the US belong
6. "Do ___ others as you would ..."
7. Like the famous wooden horse
8. Jealous wife of Zeus
9. All over again
10. Also
12. Facebook competitor
13. Airplane wing parts
14. Moved to the middle
20. Basketballer Bryant
24. With 41-Across, "Maggie May" or "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?" singer
25. Then: Fr.
26. Blue jeans reinforcement
27. Tease
28. Lex's *Superman* sidekick
29. The Who's pinball wizard
30. Desert rest stops



31. Top card
32. Uncle Remus character ___ Rabbit or Bear
34. How-___: instruction manuals
36. Poker-faced
37. Early French Canadian
39. Deuce
40. Shrinking inland sea that forms part of the border between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
42. Entrance's opposite
43. North and South ___
45. Sign up for more magazine issues
46. They were among the original inhabitants of Ontario
47. Assistant
49. "Sad to say..."
50. Iditarod's Alaska terminus
51. Must-have item
52. Bull ring wound
53. Be on the wane
56. At present

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

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6	2	1	7	3	5	4	9	8
8	3	9	1	4	6	2	7	5
2	8	3	5	7	4	1	6	9
9	1	8	6	2	3	5	4	7
4	5	7	8	9	1	6	3	2
3	7	6	4	5	9	8	2	1
1	8	4	2	6	7	9	5	3
5	9	2	3	1	8	7	6	4

Today

8°/1°

Partly cloudy

Thursday

8°/2°

Sunny

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